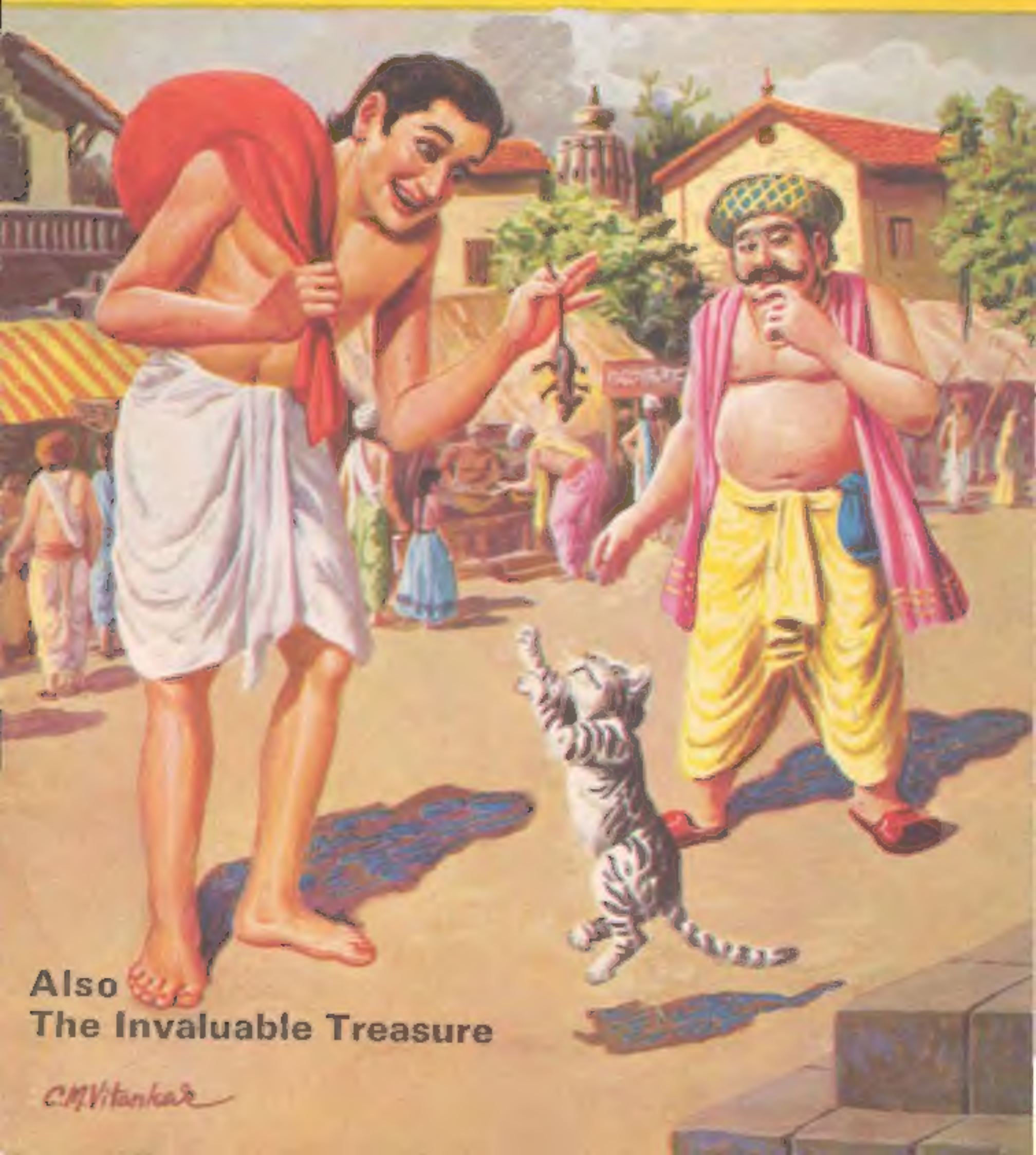




No. 269

# JATAKA TALES

## The Mouse Merchant



Also  
The Invaluable Treasure

*C.M. Vitankar*



All living creatures die to be born again, so the Hindus believe. The Buddha was no exception. Legend has it that several lifetimes as a Bodhisattva went into the making of the Buddha, the Enlightened one.

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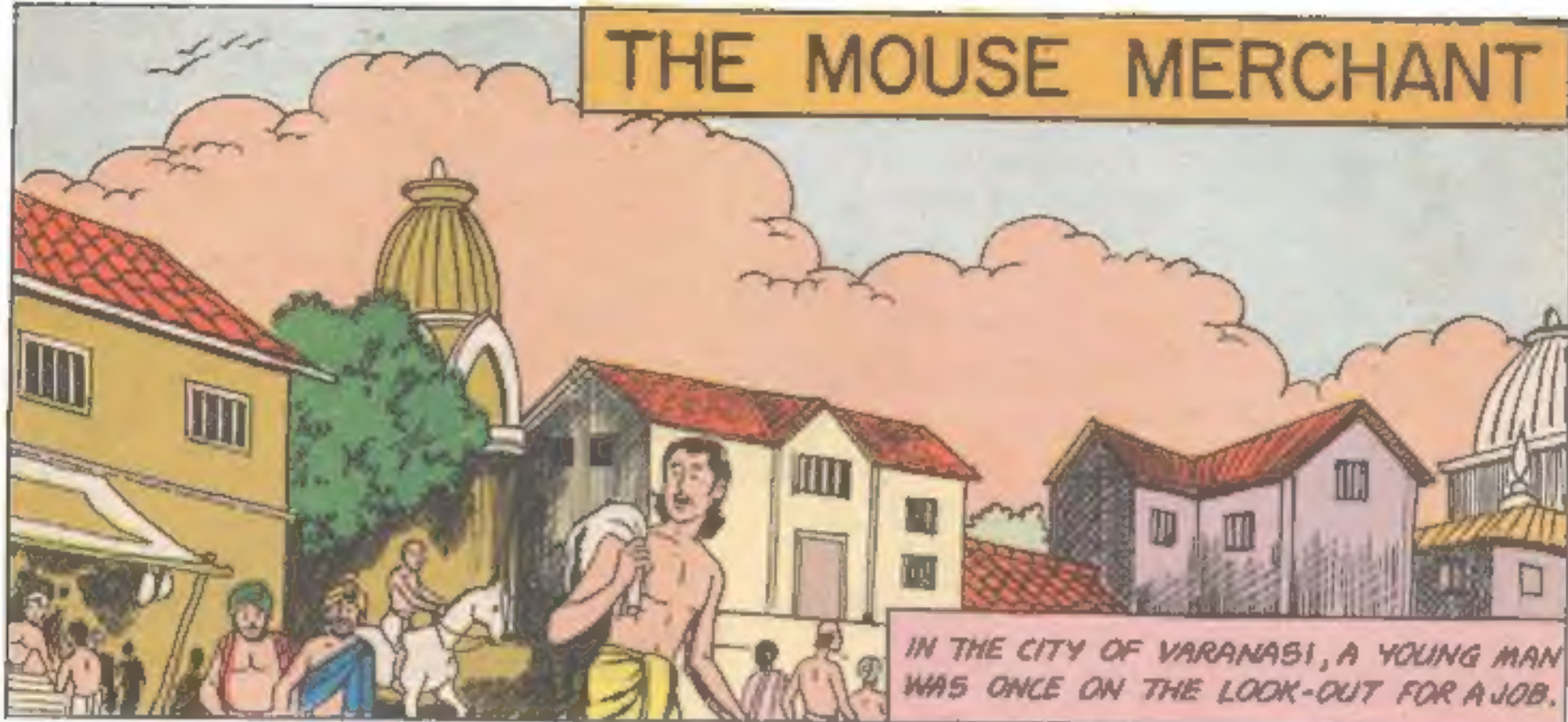
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**Artworks : Chandrakant D. Rane**



# THE MOUSE MERCHANT



IN THE CITY OF VARANASI, A YOUNG MAN WAS ONCE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR A JOB.

IT SO HAPPENED THAT THE ROYAL TREASURER, ACCOMPANIED BY A FRIEND, PASSED BY.

THE KING VALUES YOUR WORK. THE TREASURY IS OVERFLOWING WITH RICHES. WHAT IS THE SECRET OF YOUR SUCCESS?

INITIATIVE AND ENTERPRISE.

I'LL EXPLAIN WHAT I MEAN. DO YOU SEE THAT DEAD MOUSE?

YES... BUT...

EVEN IF HE HAS NO MONEY, A YOUNG MAN WITH INITIATIVE COULD JUST PICK UP THAT MOUSE AND START A BUSINESS.

A DEAD MOUSE AS CAPITAL? HA! HA! HA!



THE YOUNG MAN STOPPED AND GAZED AT THE DEAD MOUSE.

IT SOUNDS LIKE AN ABSURD IDEA...



... BUT THE TREASURER MUST SURELY KNOW WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT!



BUT WHAT CAN I DO WITH IT?



WHO WOULD WANT TO BUY A DEAD MOUSE?



HEY, PUSSY, COME BACK!





AH! NOW I KNOW  
WHAT HAS ATTRACTED  
HIM!



MY FRIEND, WILL  
YOU SELL YOUR  
MOUSE TO ME? I'LL  
PAY ONE PAISA  
FOR IT.



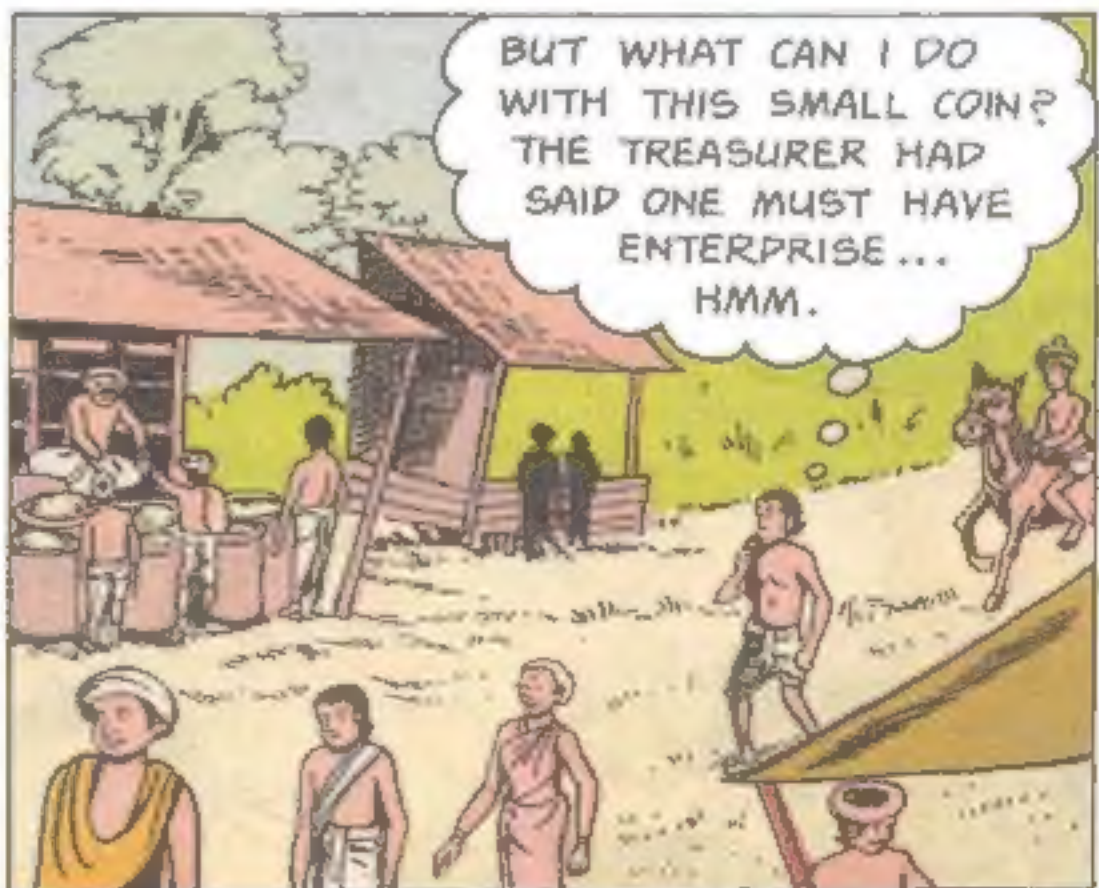
THE MOUSE  
IS YOURS!



THE FIRST  
COIN I'VE  
EARNED!

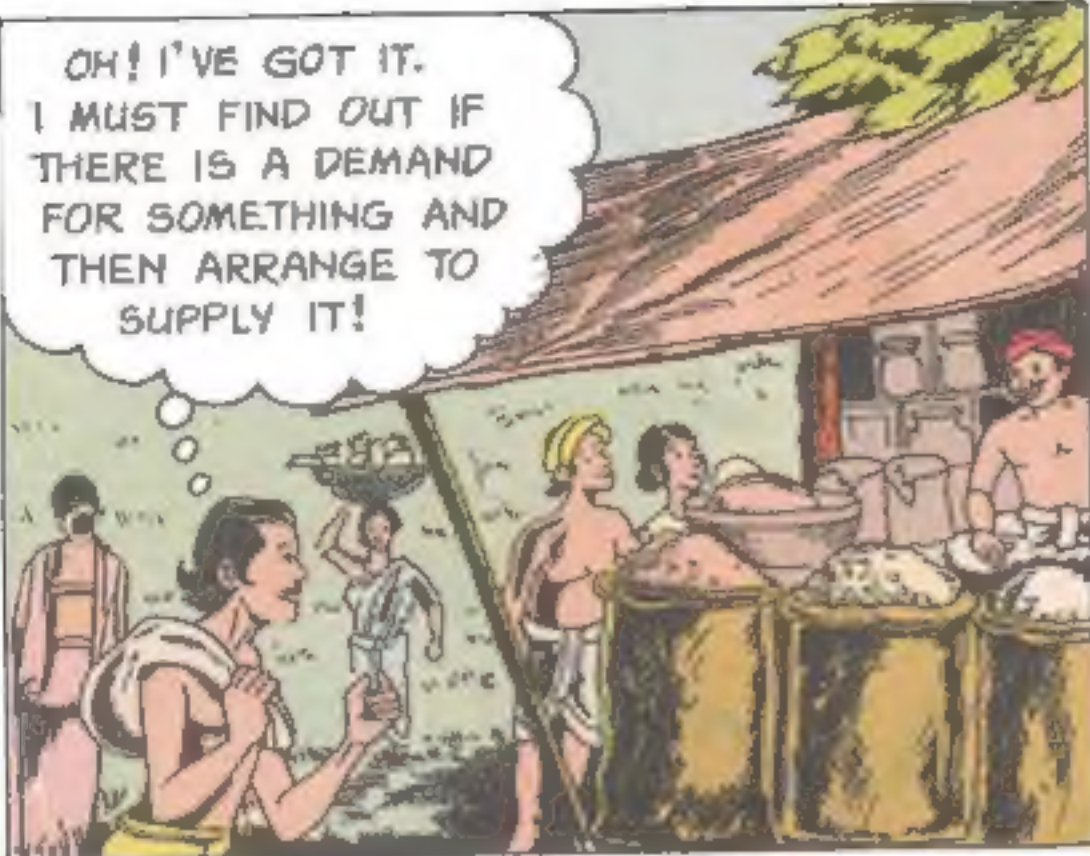


BUT WHAT CAN I DO  
WITH THIS SMALL COIN?  
THE TREASURER HAD  
SAID ONE MUST HAVE  
ENTERPRISE...  
HMM.





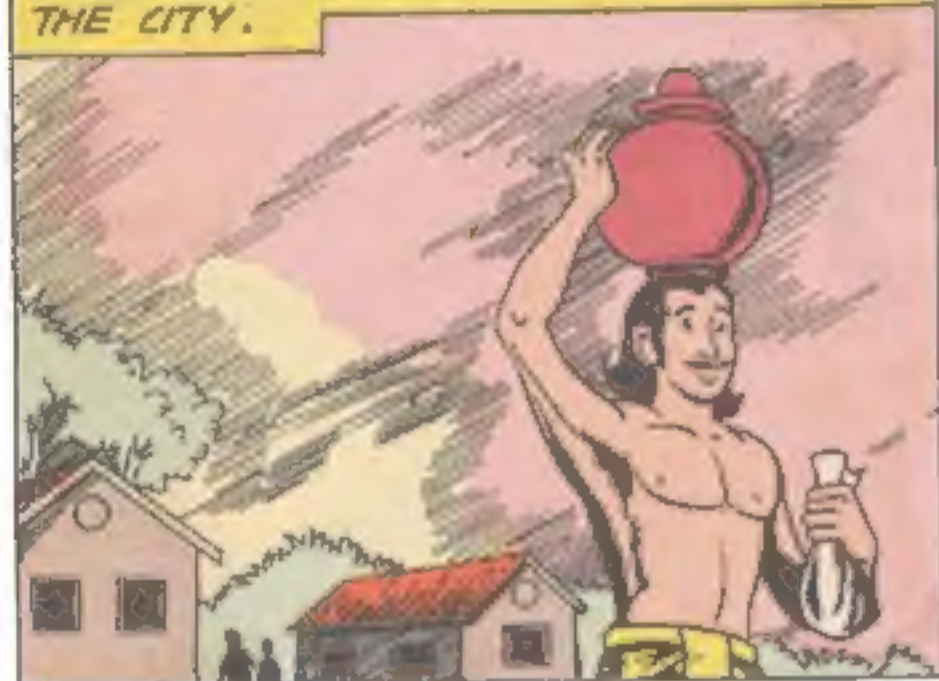
OH! I'VE GOT IT.  
I MUST FIND OUT IF  
THERE IS A DEMAND  
FOR SOMETHING AND  
THEN ARRANGE TO  
SUPPLY IT!



PLEASE GIVE ME  
ONE PAISA'S  
WORTH OF  
GUR.



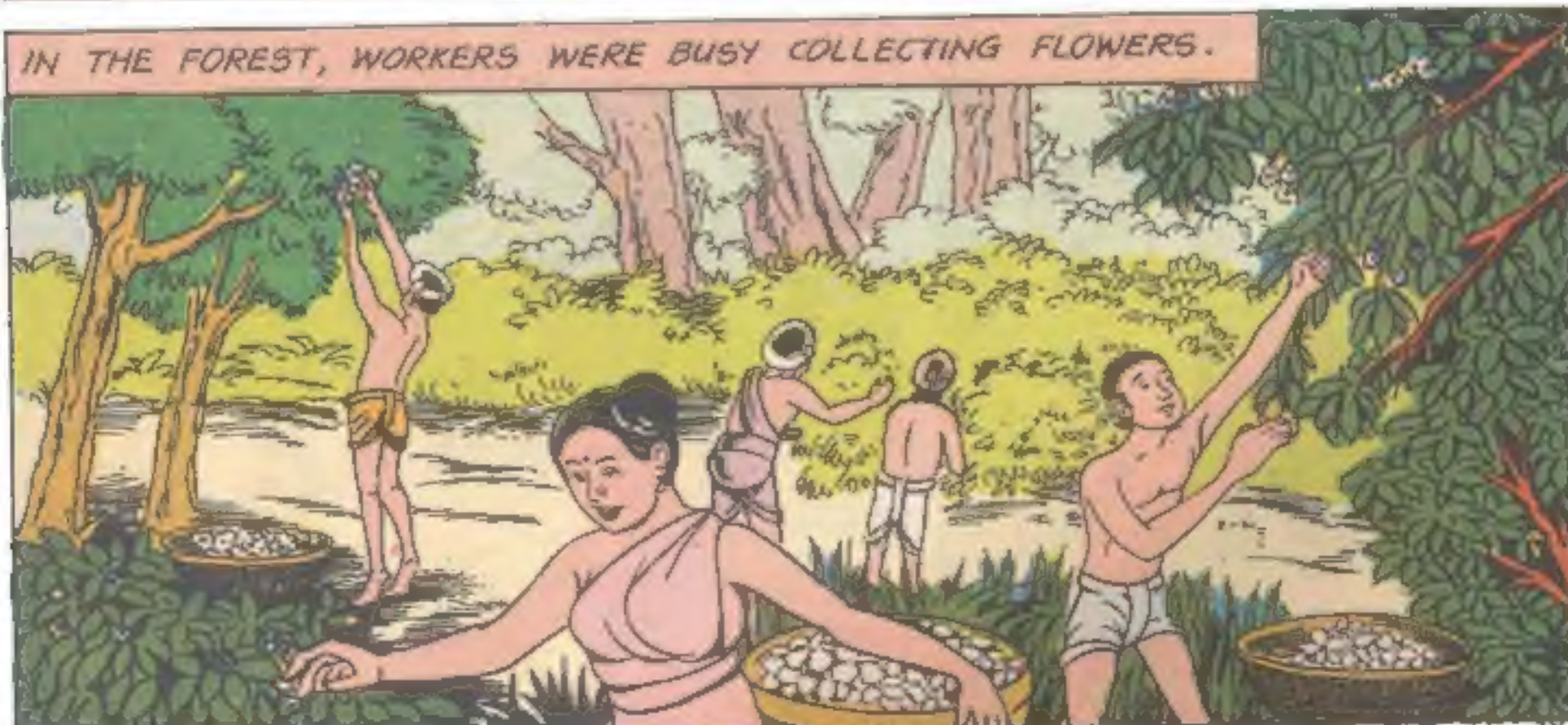
THE NEXT MORNING, THE YOUNG MAN  
FILLED A POT WITH DRINKING WATER  
AND WENT TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF  
THE CITY.



I'LL WAIT  
HERE FOR THE  
FLOWER-GATHERERS  
TO RETURN FROM  
WORK.

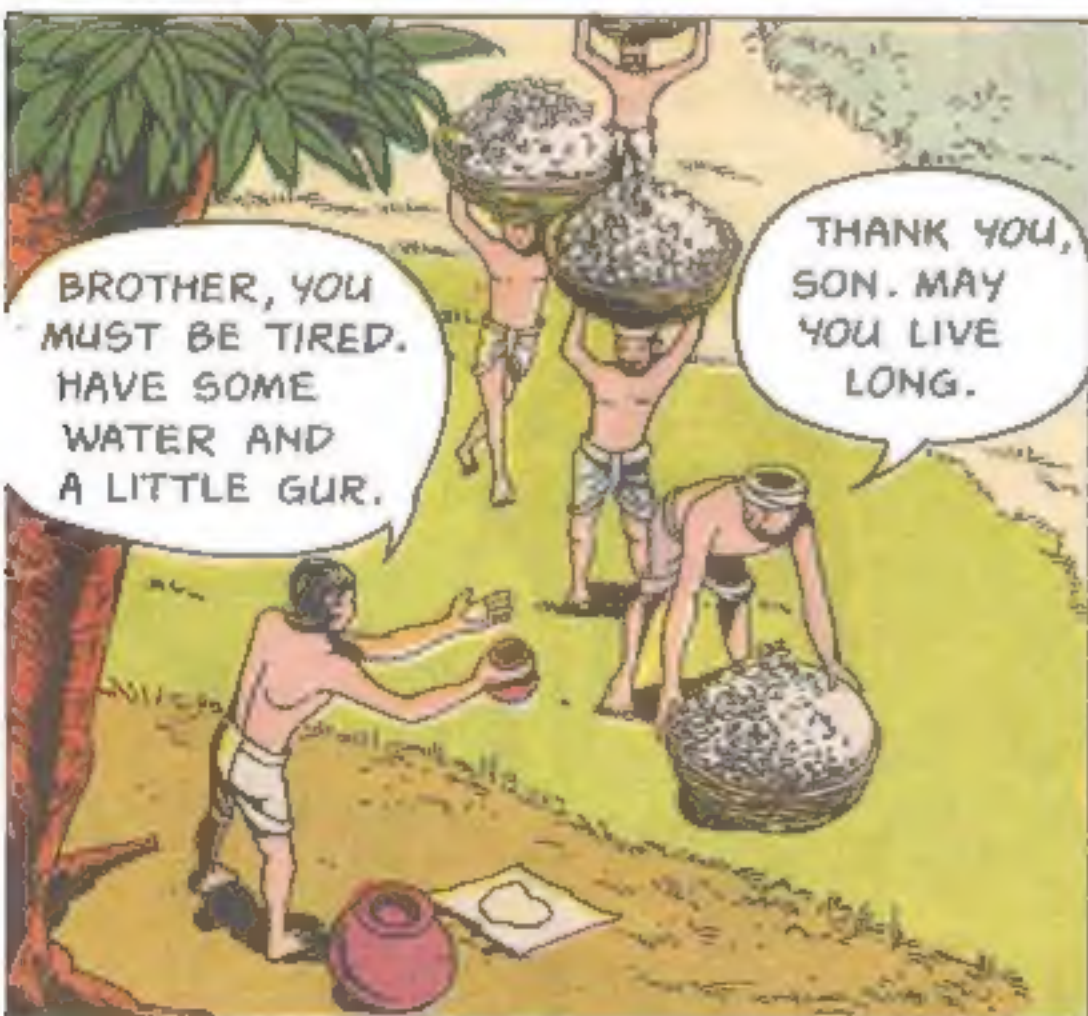


IN THE FOREST, WORKERS WERE BUSY COLLECTING FLOWERS.

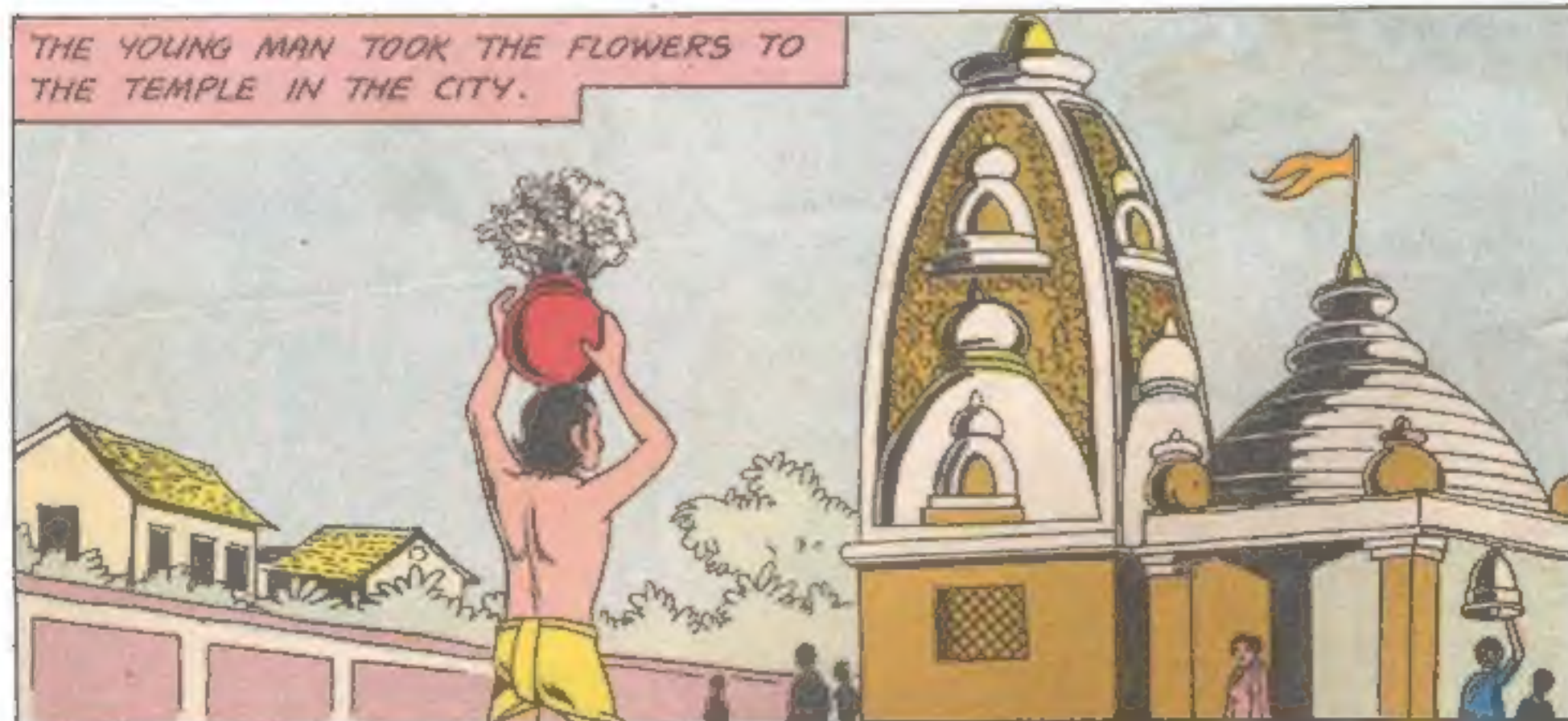
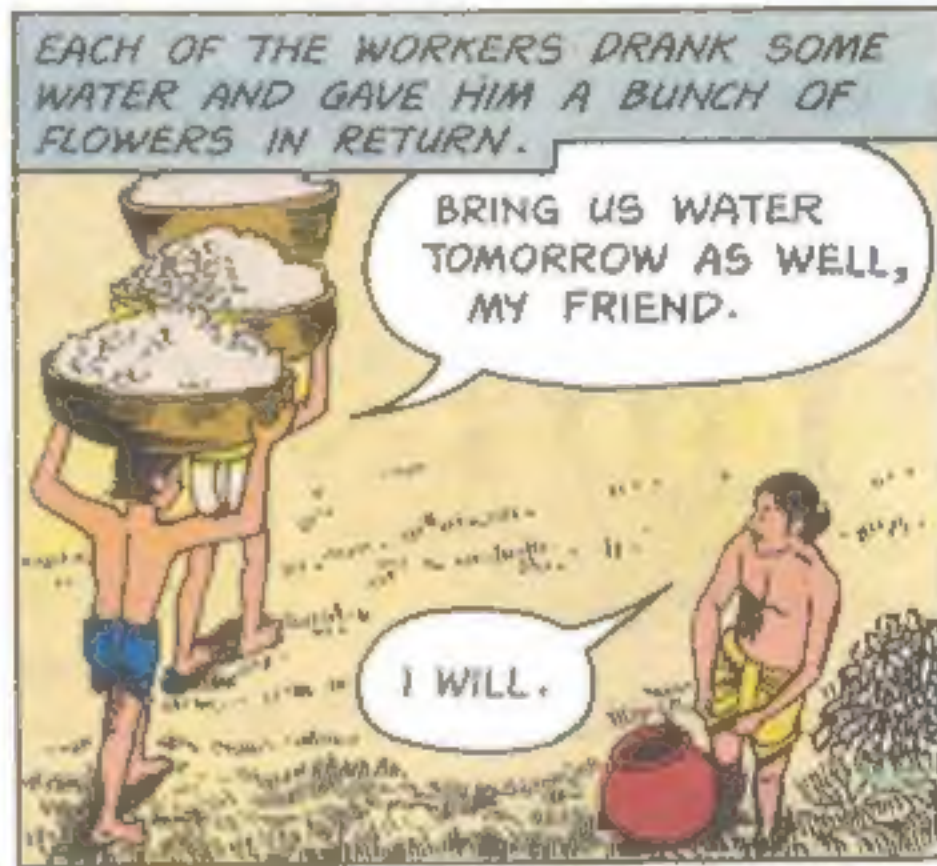




IT WAS LATE IN THE AFTERNOON WHEN THEY FINISHED THEIR WORK AND BEGAN RETURNING TO THE CITY.



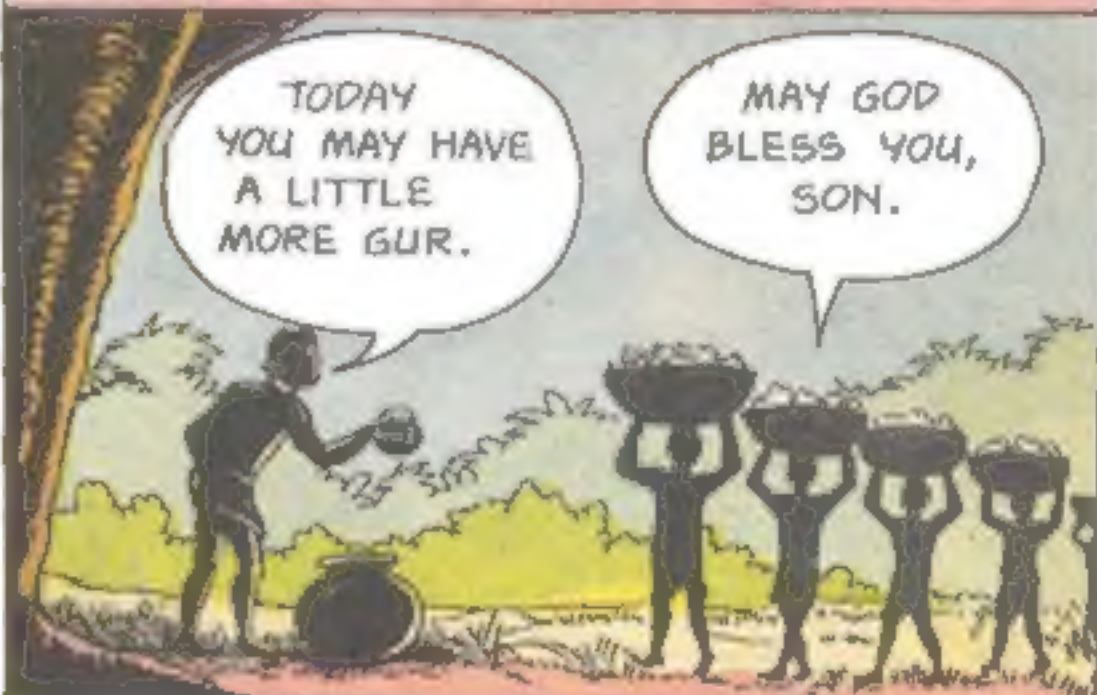




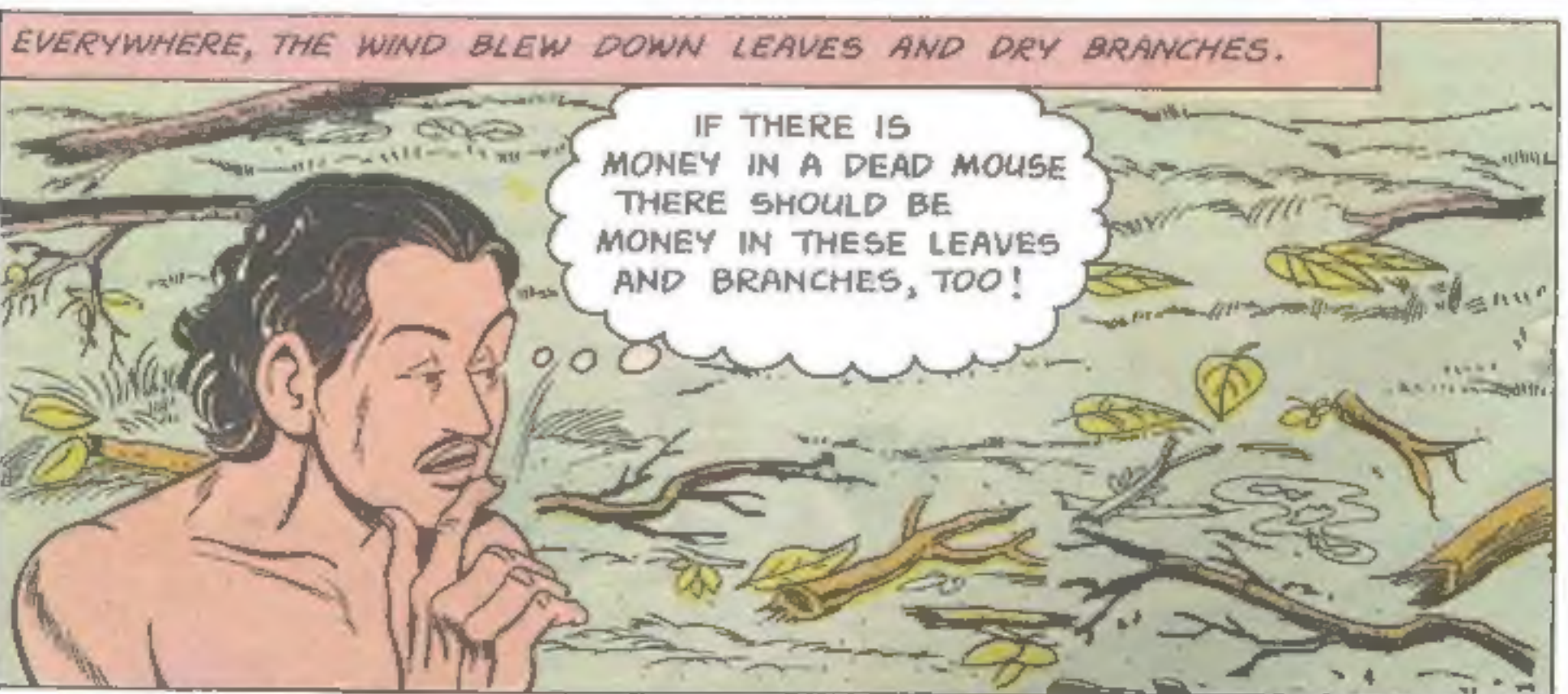
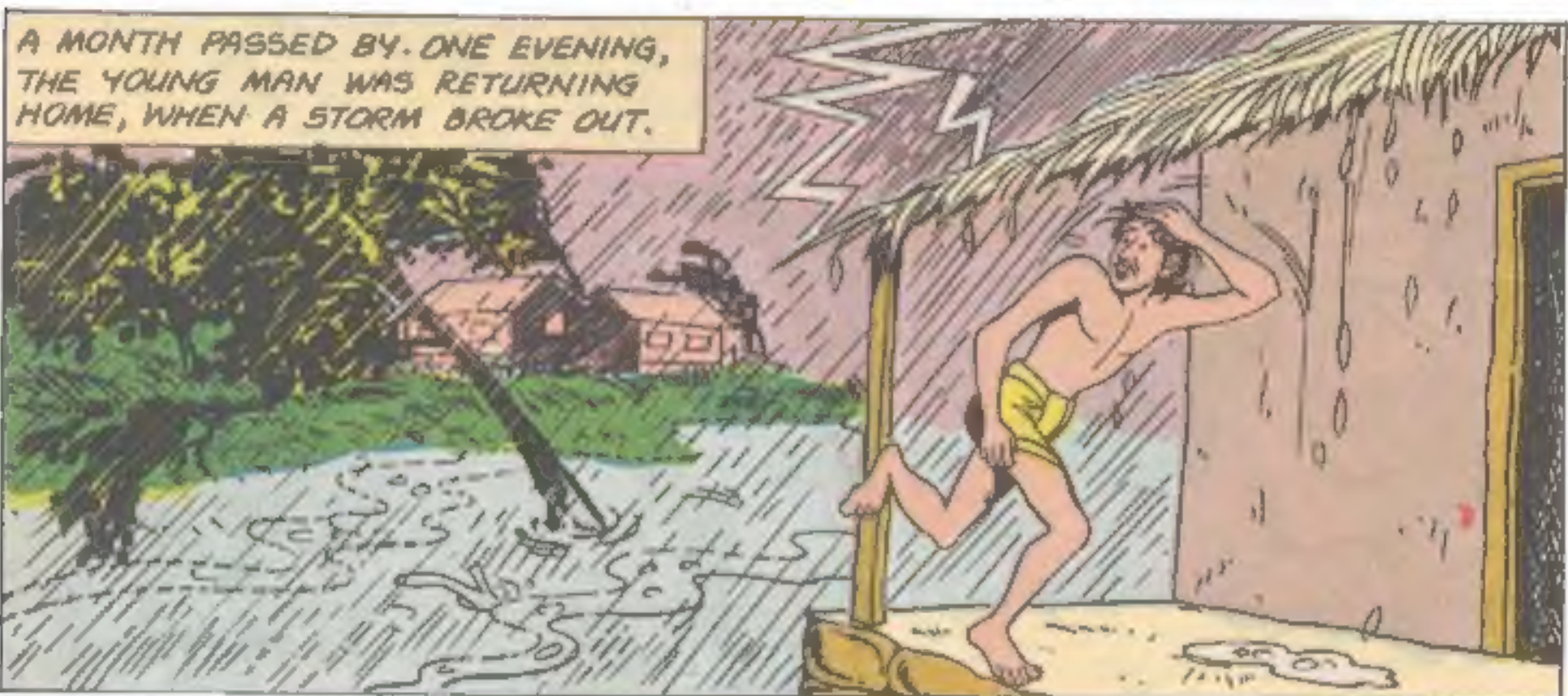
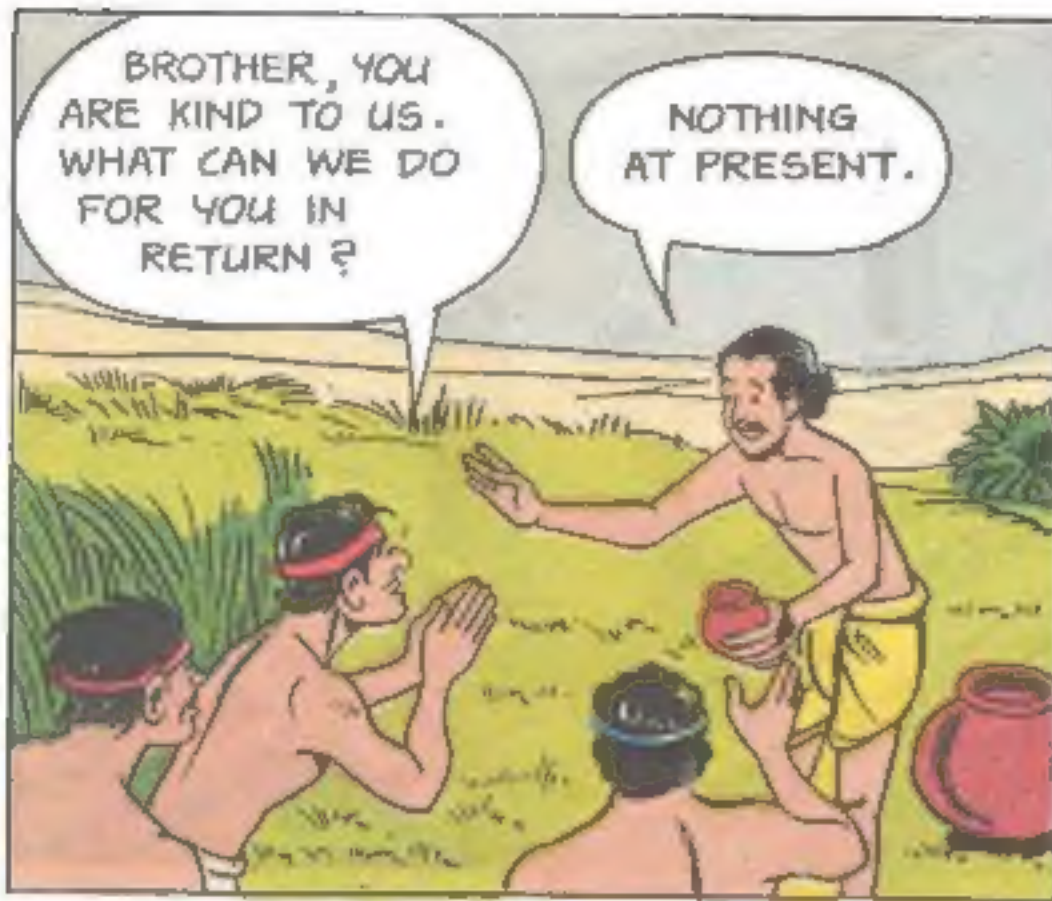




WITH THE MONEY HE EARNED, THE YOUNG MAN BOUGHT A BIG WATER POT AND A LARGER QUANTITY OF GUR. THE NEXT DAY HE WENT BACK TO THE FOREST

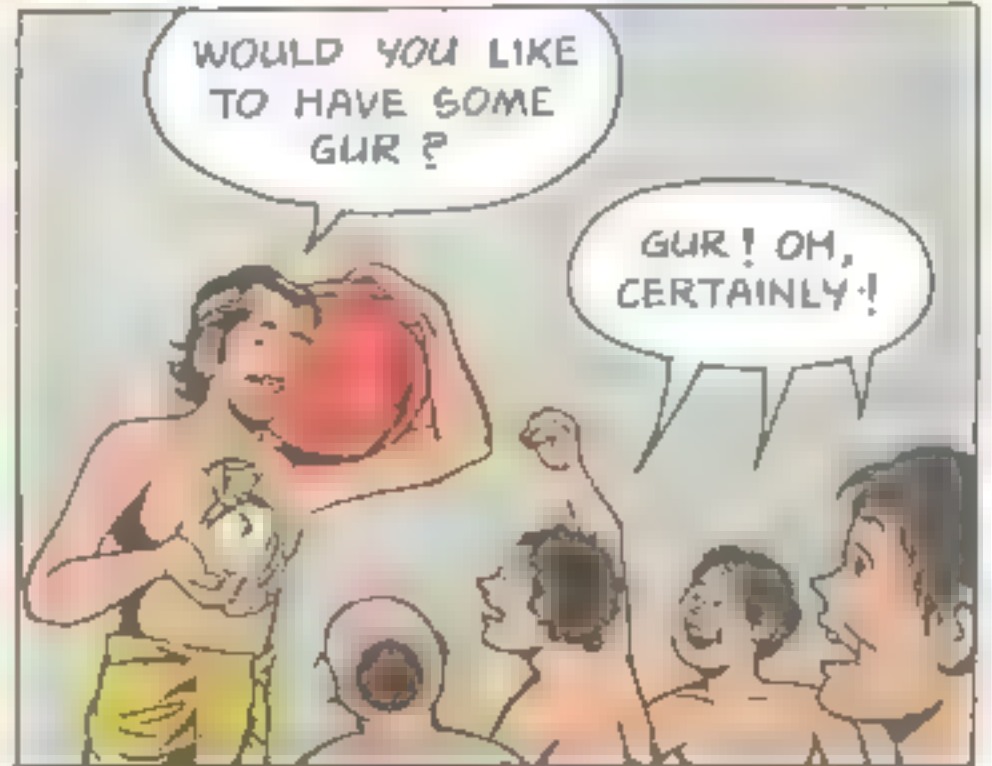
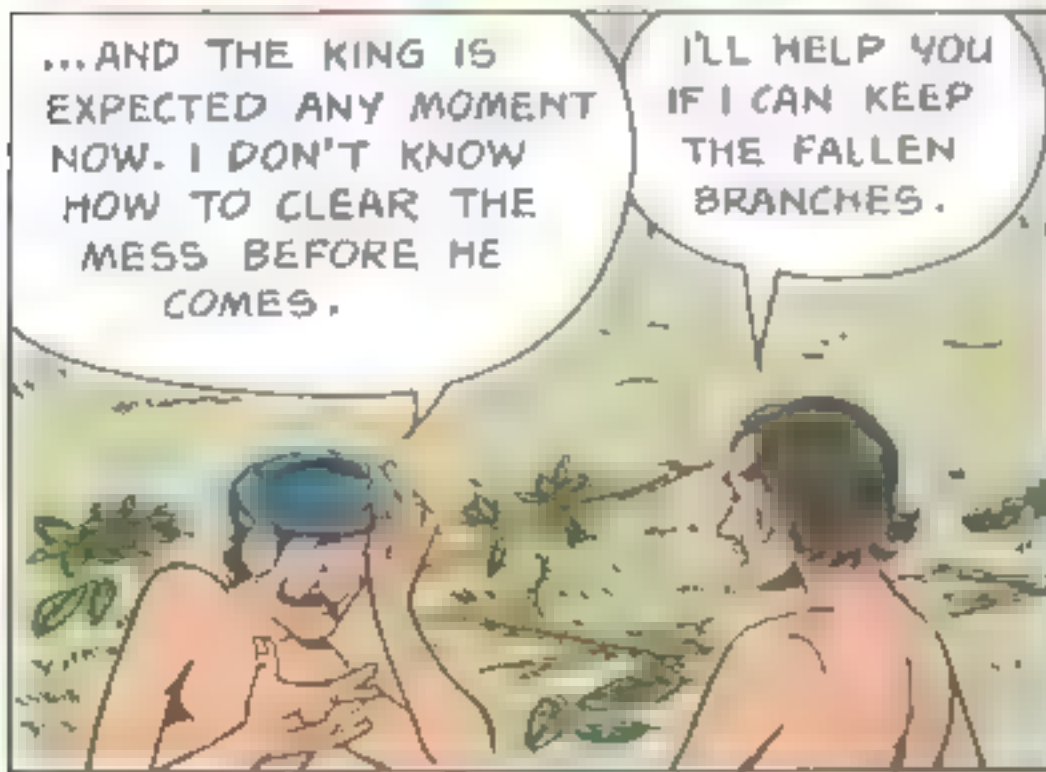
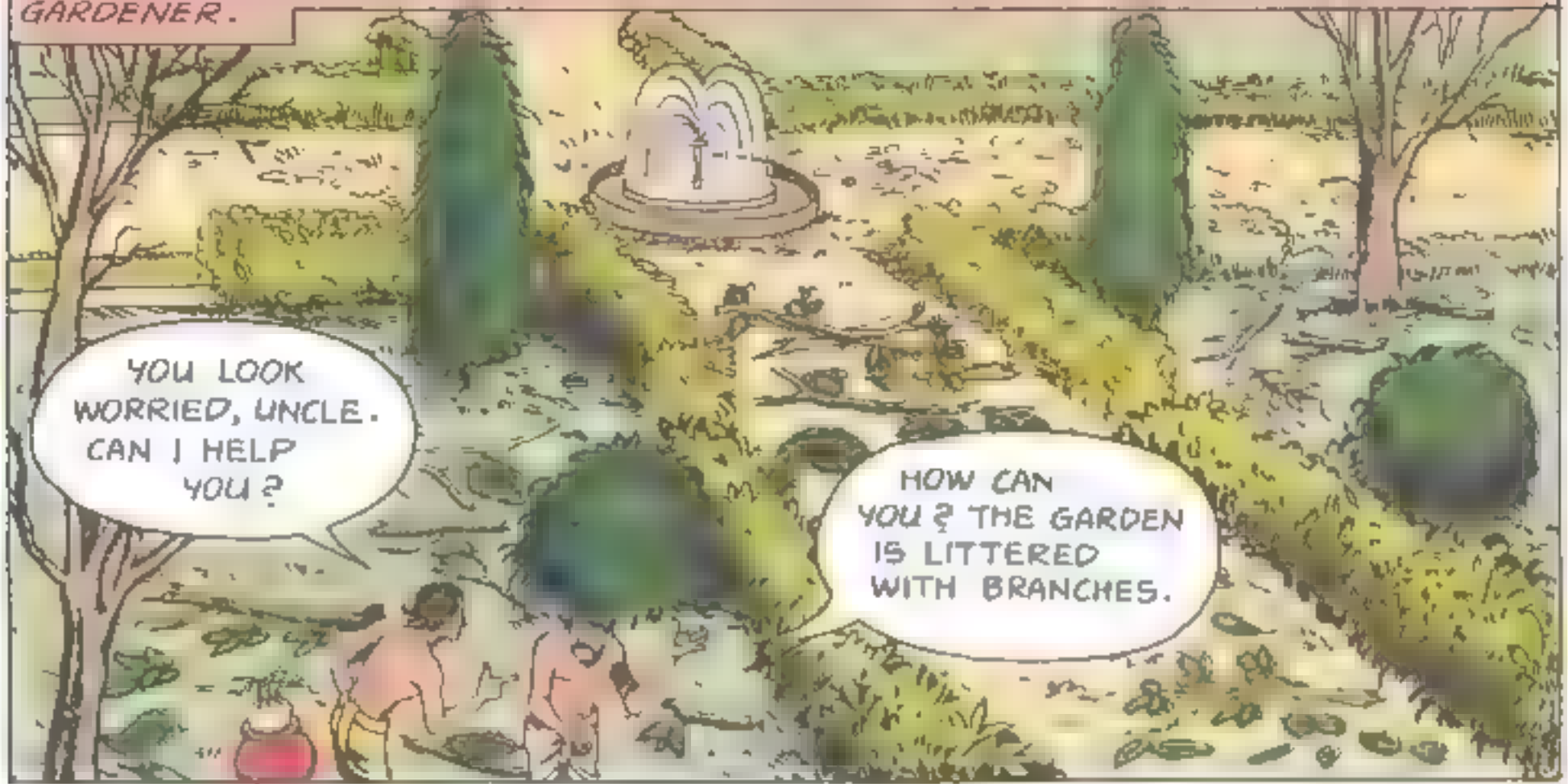




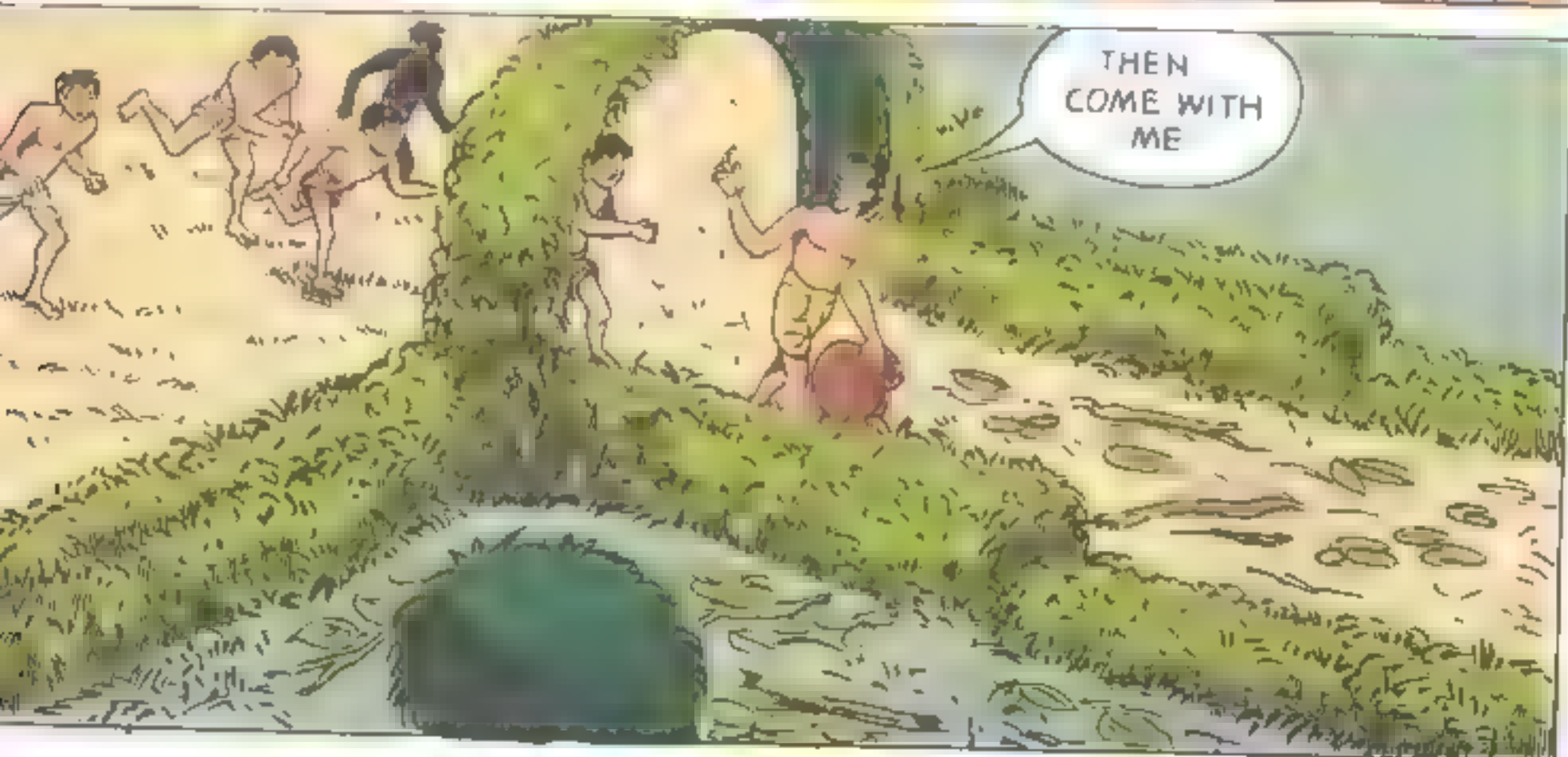
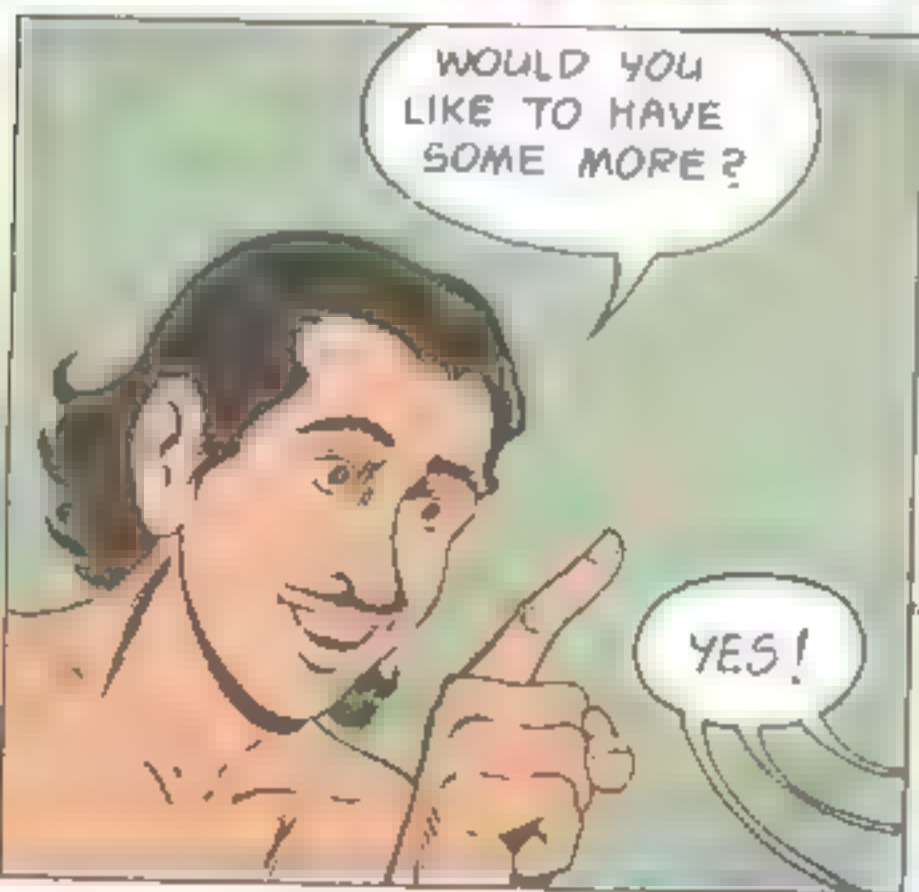
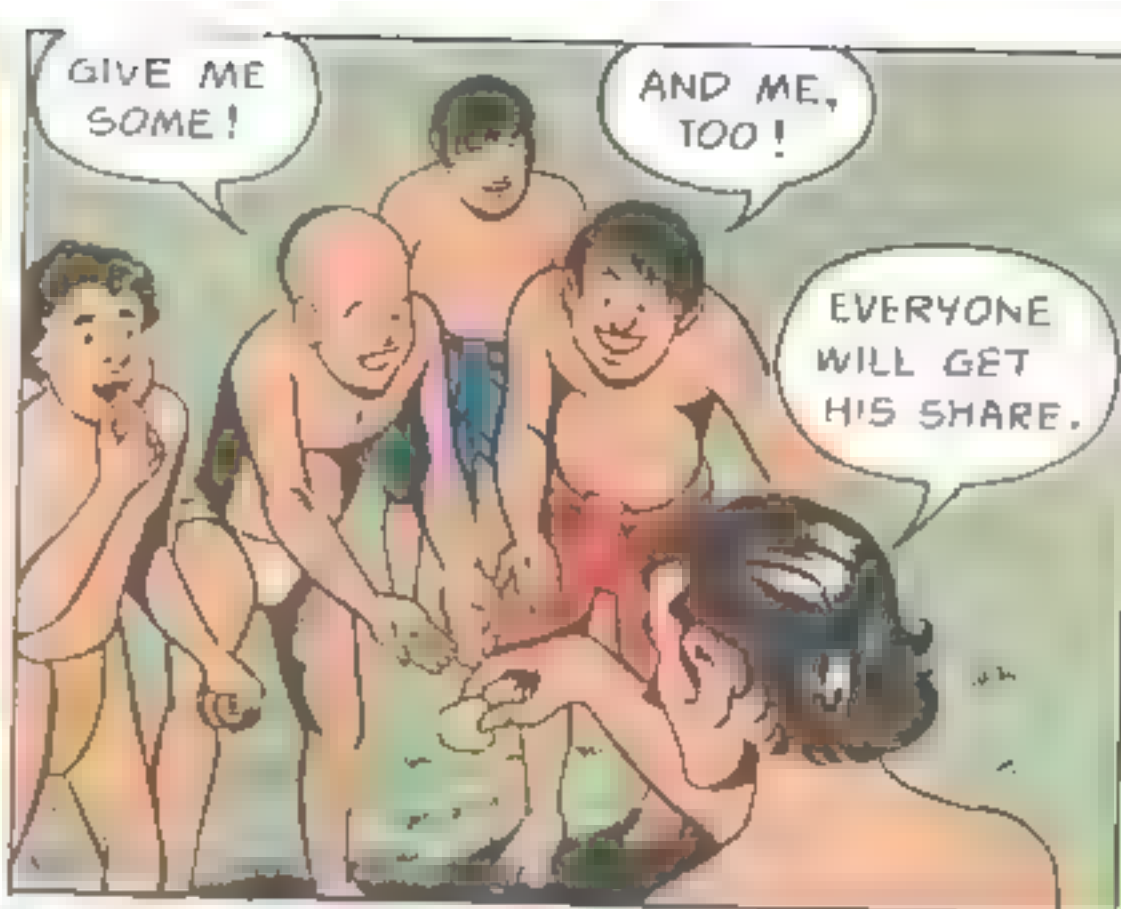




THE NEXT MORNING HE WENT TO THE PALACE GARDEN AND SPOKE TO THE GARDENER.









YOU MUST COLLECT  
ALL THE FALLEN  
BRANCHES AND HEAP  
THEM OUTSIDE THE  
GARDEN.

THAT'S  
EASY!

QUICKLY THEY GATHERED UP  
THE FALLEN BRANCHES

AND FORMED A LONG HUMAN CHAIN TO  
PASS THEM ON.

.. TO A PLACE OUTSIDE THE GARDEN

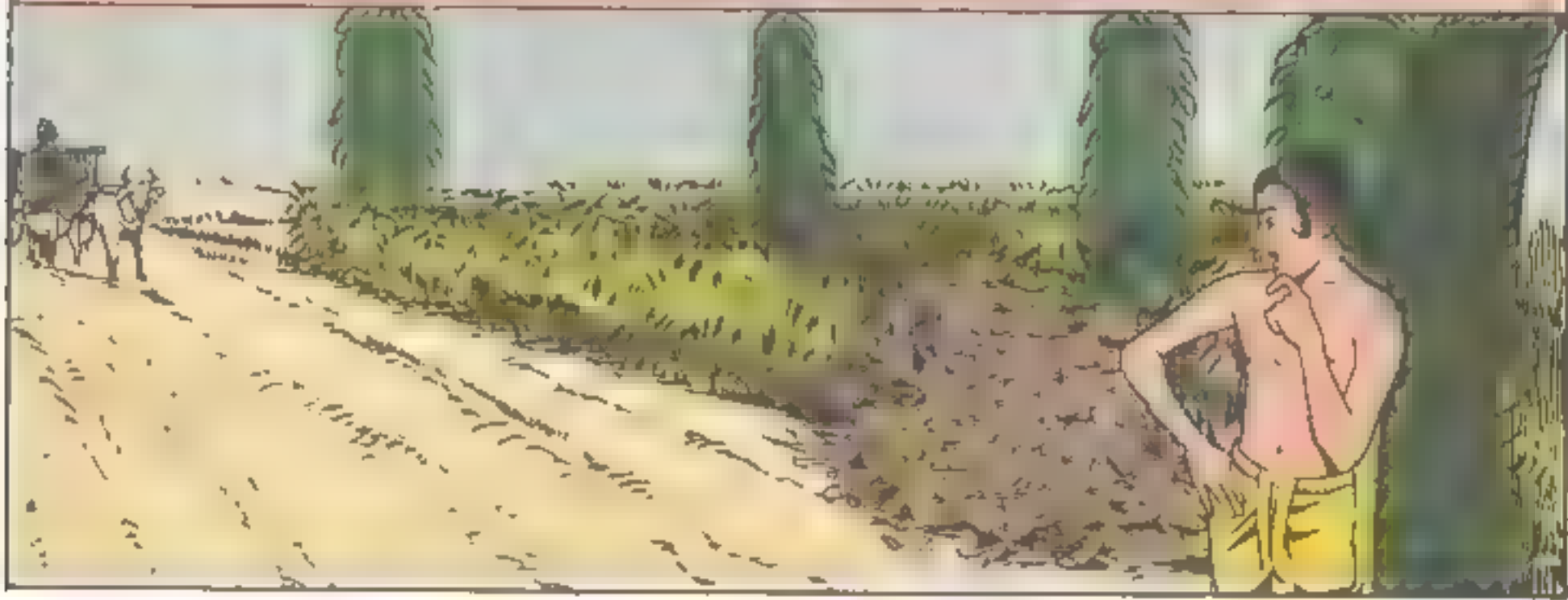
AH! YOU HAVE FINISHED!  
HERE IS YOUR REWARD—  
DELICIOUS GUR!

THANK  
YOU!

THANK  
YOU!



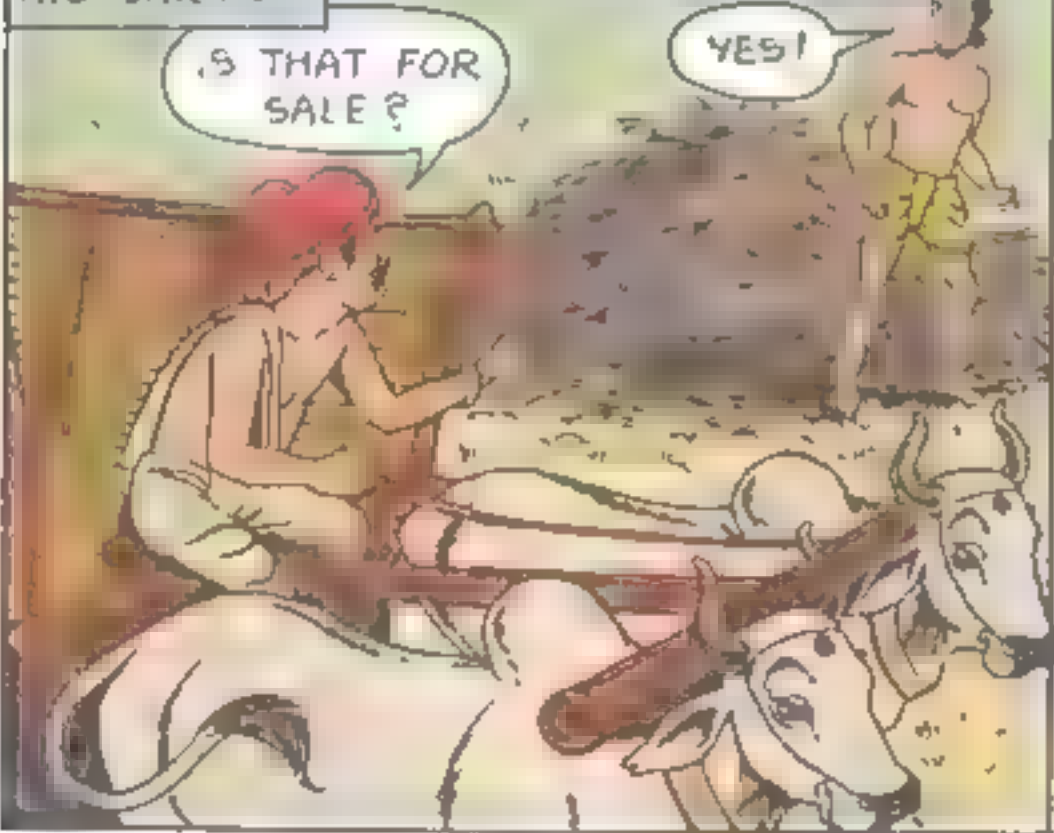
JUST AS THE YOUNG MAN WAS WONDERING WHAT HE SHOULD DO NEXT..



A POTTER CAME BY AND STOPPED HIS CART.

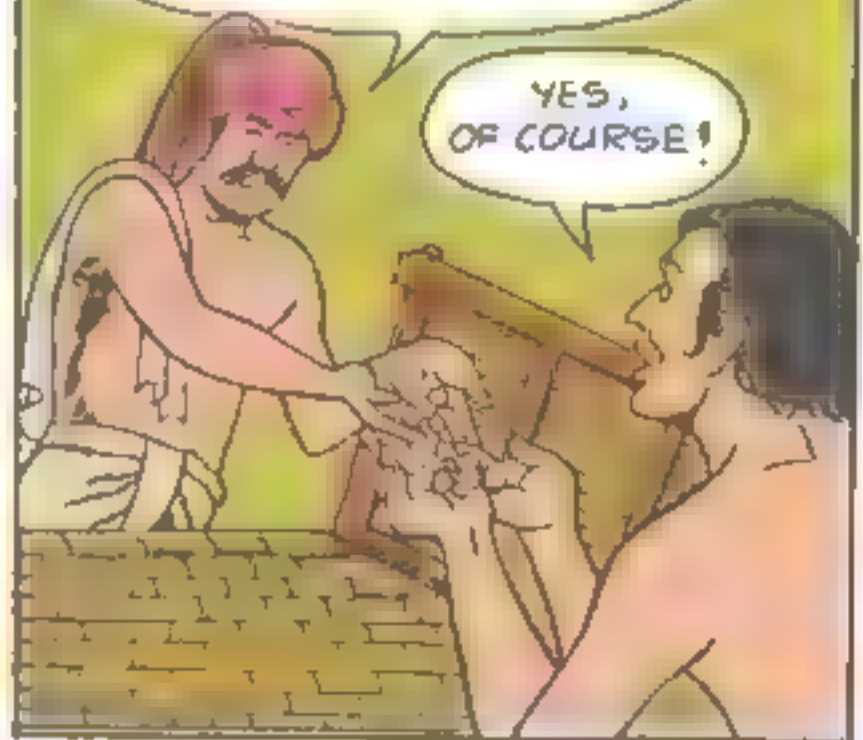
IS THAT FOR SALE?

YES!

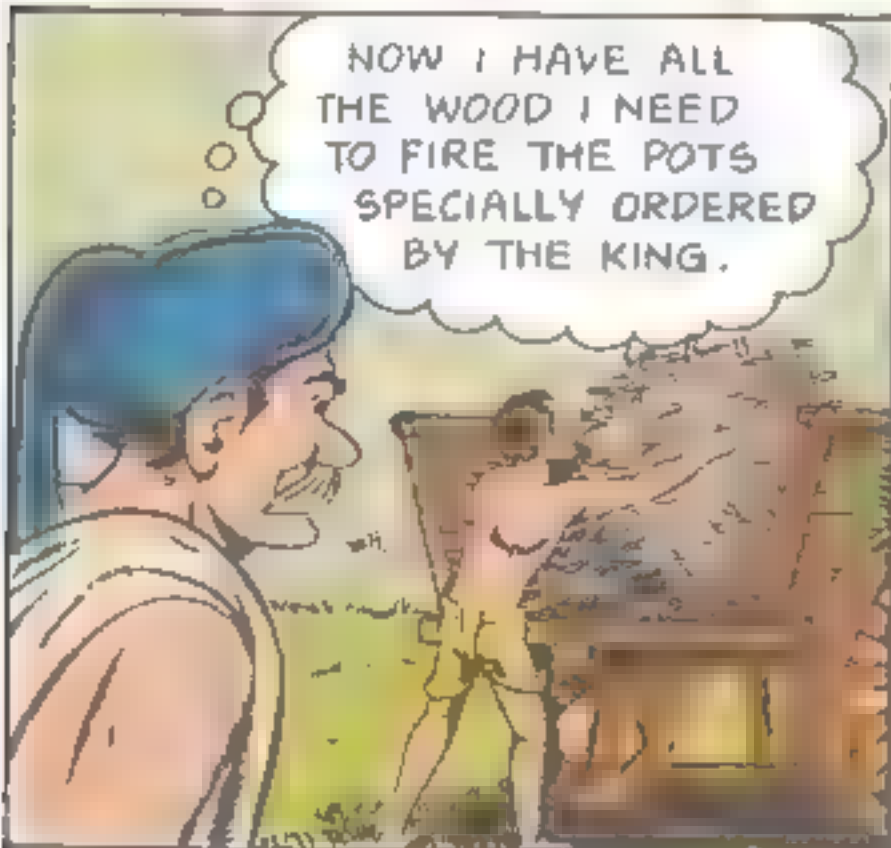


HERE ARE SIXTEEN COPPER PIECES. PLEASE HELP ME LOAD MY CART.

YES, OF COURSE!



NOW I HAVE ALL THE WOOD I NEED TO FIRE THE POTS SPECIALLY ORDERED BY THE KING.



THE YOUNG MAN THEN WENT WITH THE POTTER...





... TO THE MARKET.

HAVE YOU HEARD?  
THE HORSE-DEALER  
WILL BE COMING  
TOMORROW.

YES, YES. I HEAR  
HE WILL BE  
BRINGING FIVE  
HUNDRED HORSES  
TO SELL.



AHA! THAT'S  
USEFUL INFORMATION!  
THANKS FOR LETTING  
ME KNOW!



HURRIEDLY, HE WENT TO THE  
GRASS-CUTTERS.

FRIENDS,  
I SEEK A  
FAVOUR OF  
YOU

AT LAST! TELL  
US WHAT WE  
SHOULD DO.



I WANT A  
BUNDLE OF  
GRASS FROM  
EACH OF  
YOU.

WE ARE FIVE  
HUNDRED IN ALL -  
SO AS MANY  
BUNDLES OF  
GRASS WILL BE  
DELIVERED TO YOU  
TONIGHT.



AND I WANT YOU  
TO PROMISE THAT  
TILL TOMORROW  
AFTERNOON YOU  
WILL NOT SELL  
ANYONE ANY  
GRASS AT ALL.

YOU ARE OUR  
FRIEND. AND WE  
WILL DO WHAT YOU  
ASK WITHOUT  
QUESTION.





LATE THAT EVENING

YOU SEE,  
WE HAVE  
KEPT OUR  
WORD!

I SHALL  
BE FOREVER  
INDEBTED  
TO YOU



THE NEXT MORNING THE HORSE-DEALER  
ARRIVED WITH FIVE HUNDRED HORSES  
AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF VARANASI.

STRANGE! NO ONE  
HAS COME YET TO  
SELL ME GRASS  
FOR MY HORSES.



HE WENT TO THE MARKET.

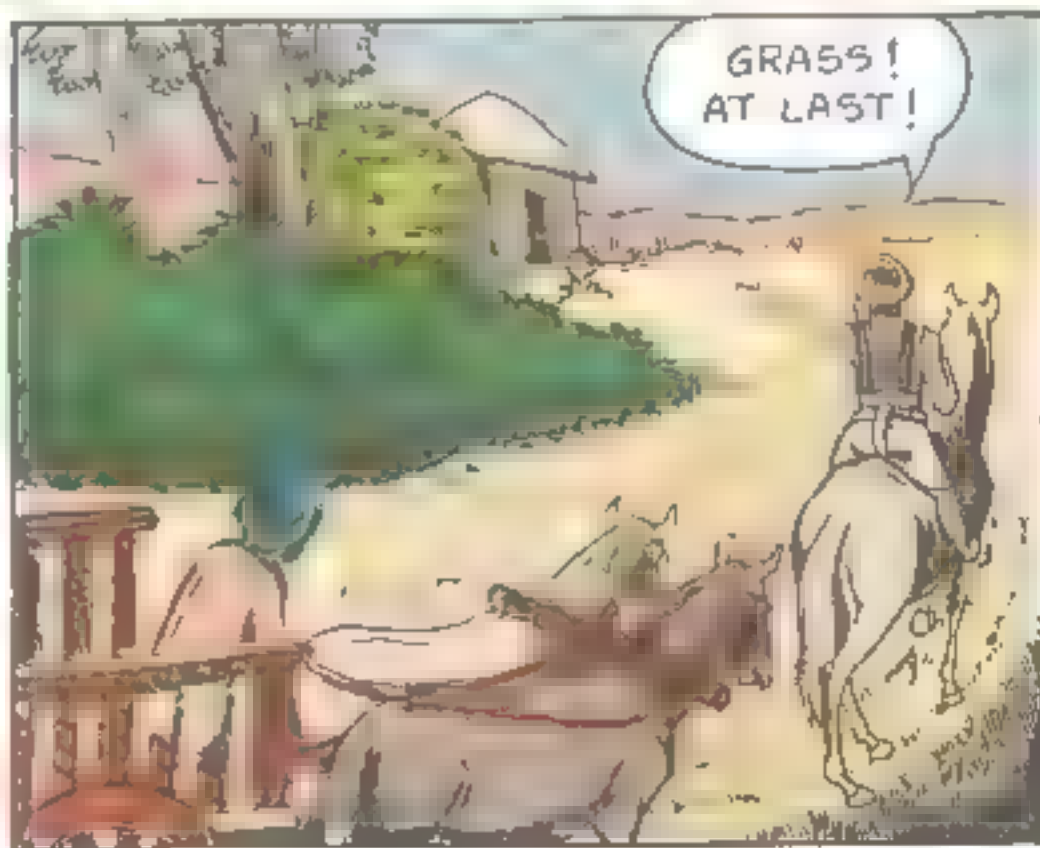
NO GRASS  
IN VARANASI?



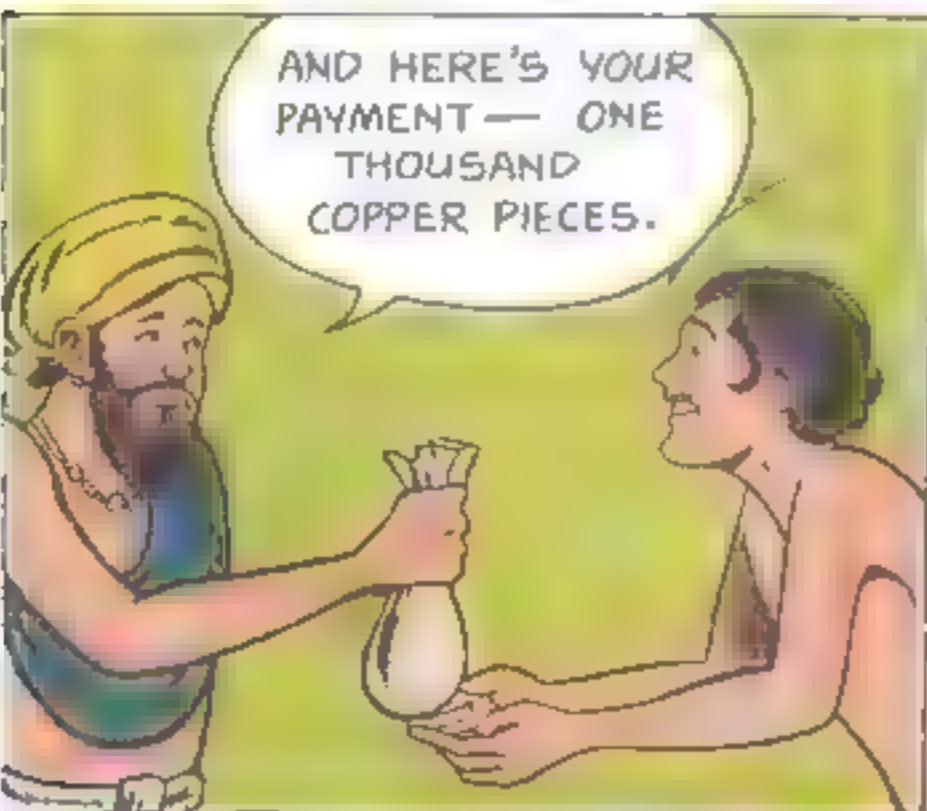
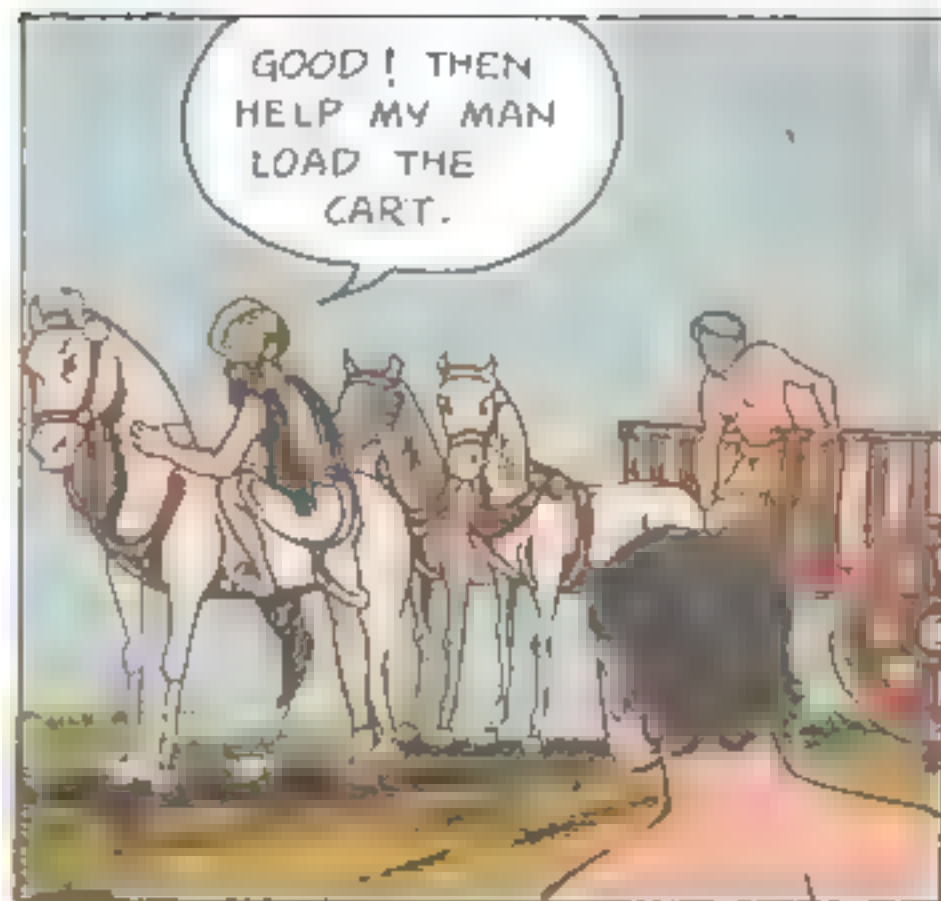
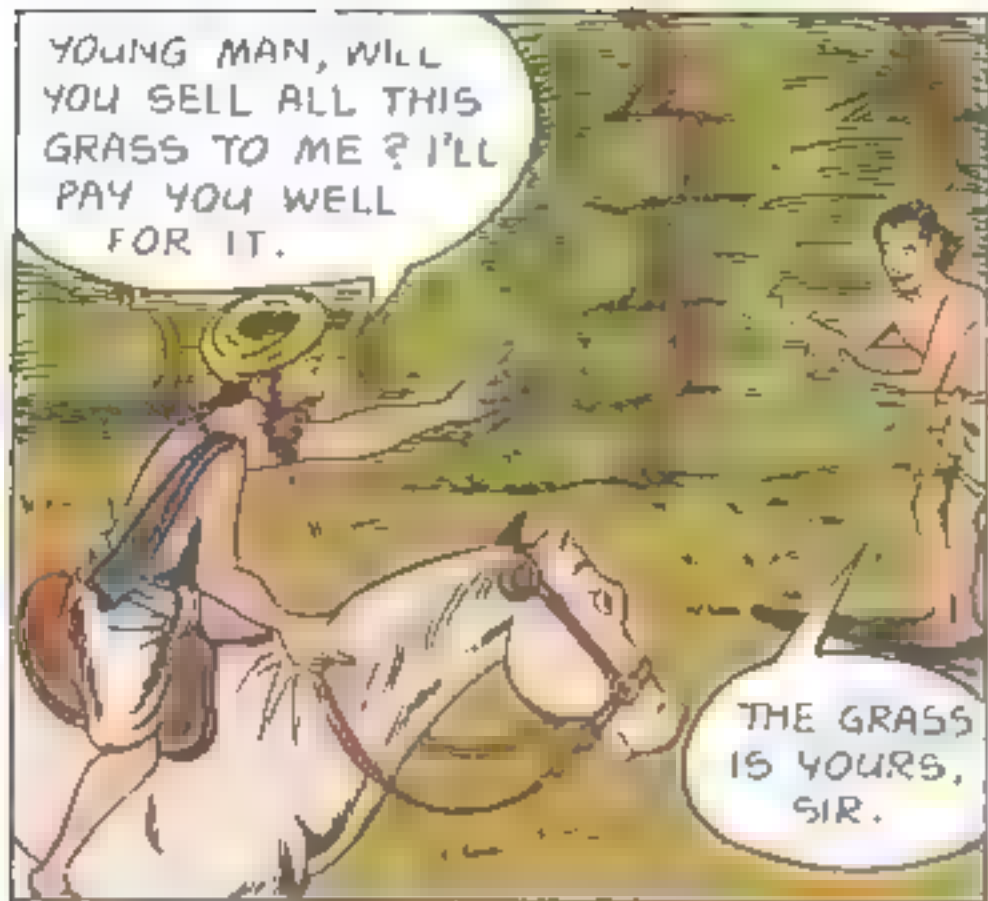
WHERE HAVE THE  
GRASS-CUTTERS  
GONE? I'D  
BETTER GO  
FURTHER—  
NEARER THE  
FIELDS.



GRASS!  
AT LAST!









A DAY LATER

WHY IS IT SO  
QUIET HERE TODAY?  
IS ANYTHING THE  
MATTER?

EVERYONE IS AWAY  
MAKING PREPARATIONS  
TO RECEIVE THE BOATS  
THAT WILL BE ARRIVING  
TOMORROW.



BOATS  
ARRIVING  
TOMORROW?

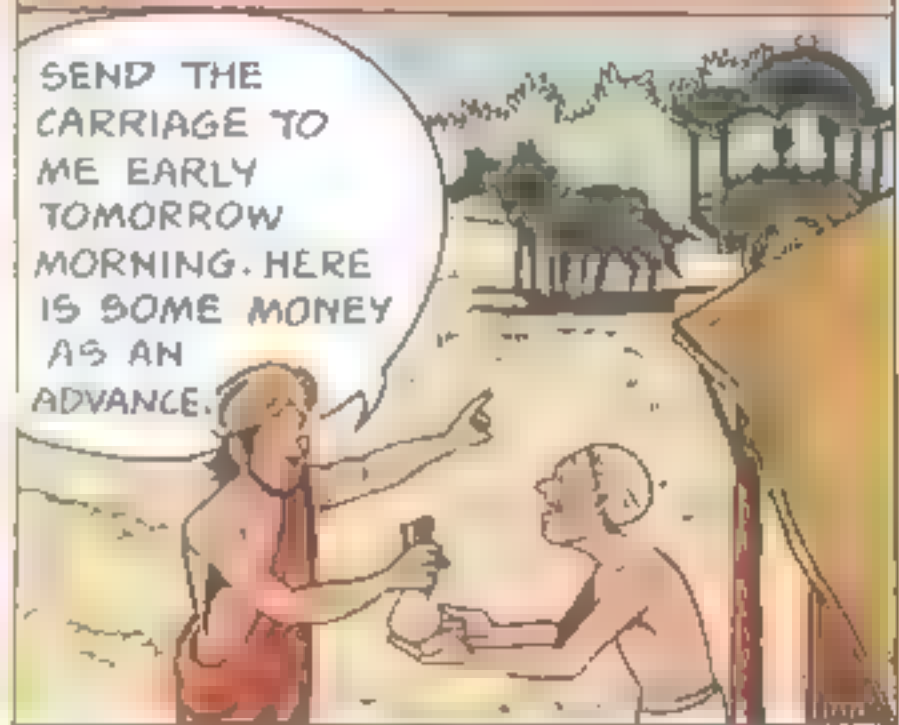


AN IDEA STRUCK HIM  
LIKE LIGHTNING

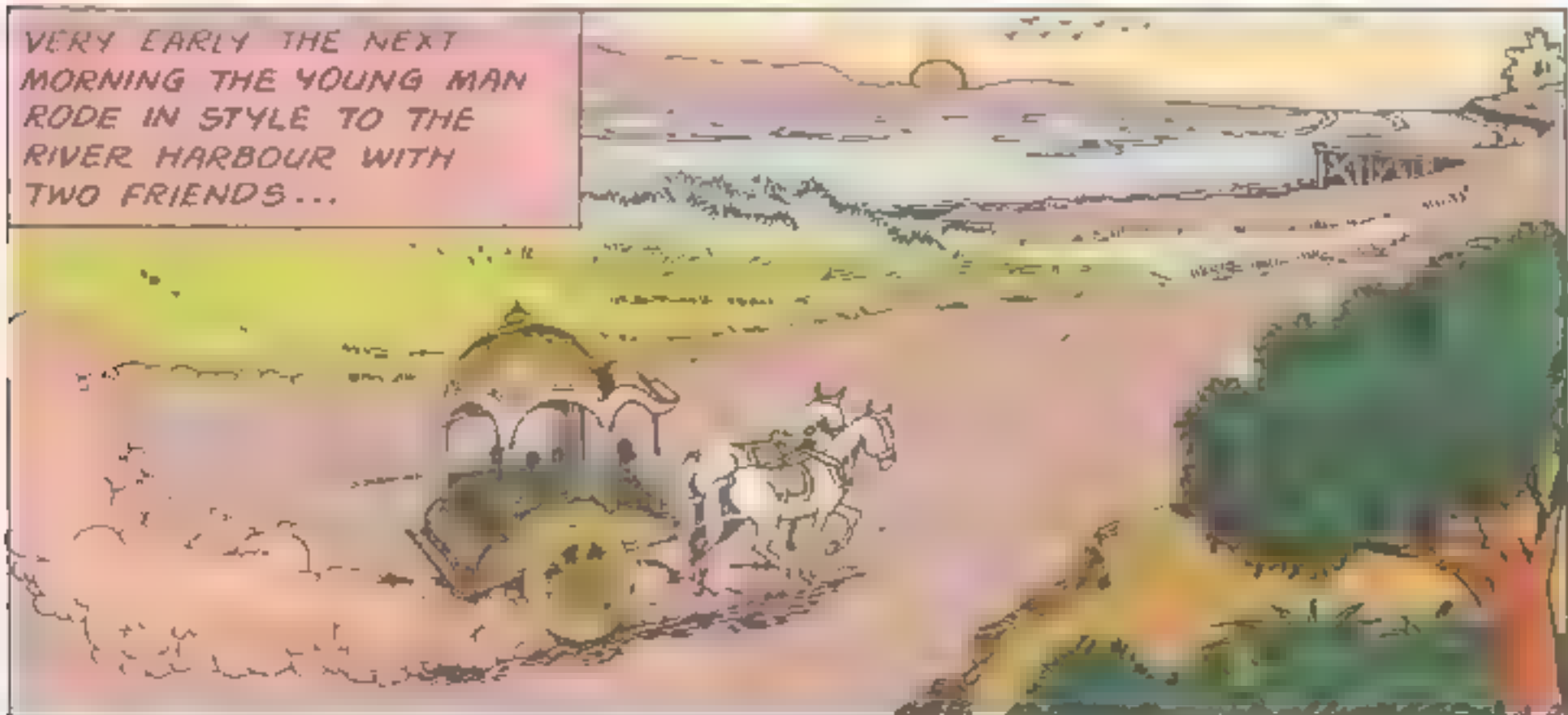


HE BOUGHT NEW CLOTHES AND  
THEN WENT TO HIRE A CARRIAGE.

SEND THE  
CARRIAGE TO  
ME EARLY  
TOMORROW  
MORNING. HERE  
IS SOME MONEY  
AS AN  
ADVANCE.

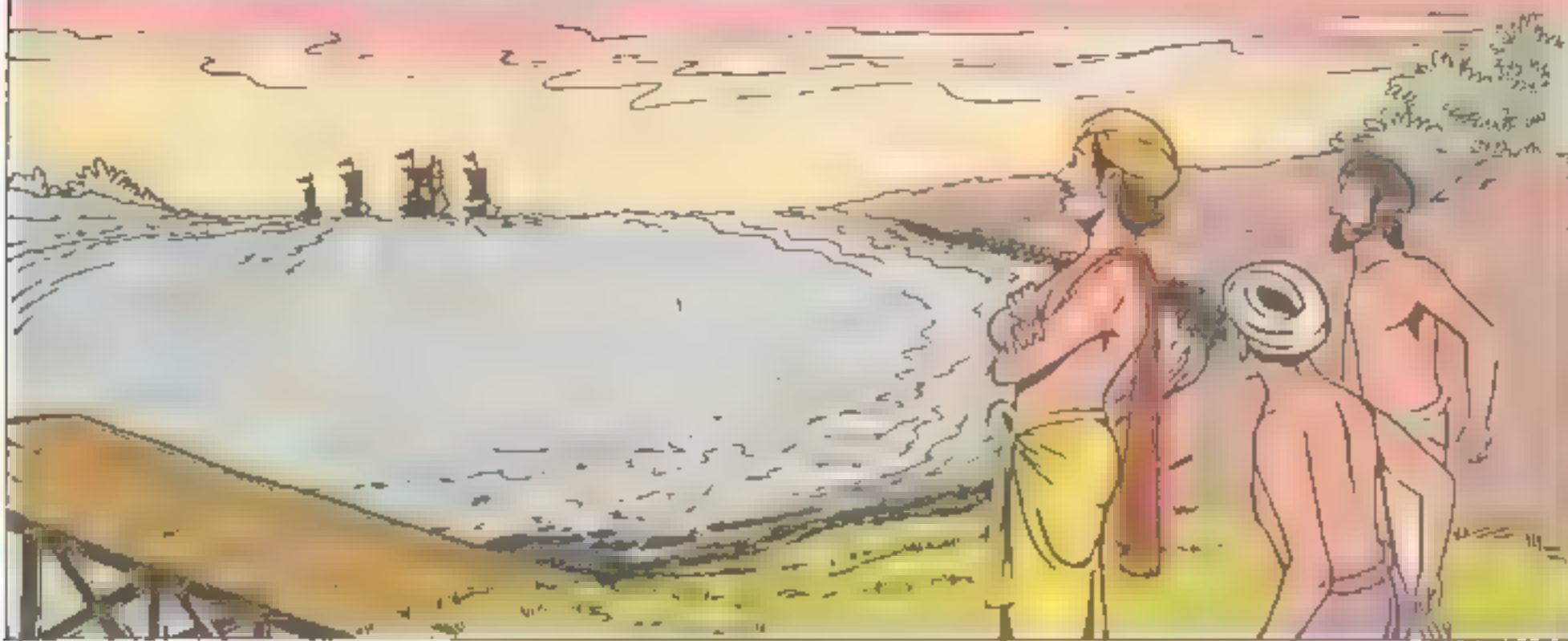


VERY EARLY THE NEXT  
MORNING THE YOUNG MAN  
RODE IN STYLE TO THE  
RIVER HARBOUR WITH  
TWO FRIENDS...





AND WAITED TO RECEIVE THE VISITING MERCHANT



HE WAS, NATURALLY, THE FIRST TO GREET THE MERCHANT.

WELCOME TO VARANASI!

I AM HAPPY TO MEET YOU, SIR



I WANT TO BUY ALL THE MERCHANDISE YOU HAVE BROUGHT.

RIGHT. IT IS A PLEASURE TO DO BUSINESS WITH YOU.



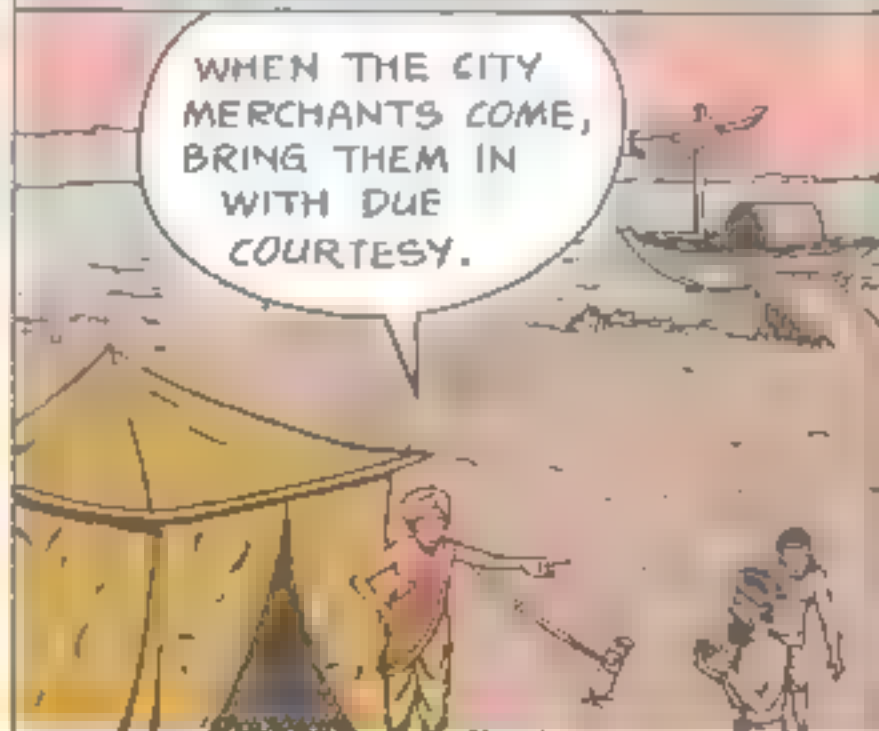
THE MERCHANT QUOTED A PRICE TO WHICH THE YOUNG MAN READILY AGREED.

I NEED TIME TO ARRANGE THE PAYMENT, MEANWHILE, HERE IS MY SIGNET RING AS SECURITY.



THEN THE YOUNG MAN SET UP A CANVAS SHELTER AND WAITED —

WHEN THE CITY MERCHANTS COME, BRING THEM IN WITH DUE COURTESY.

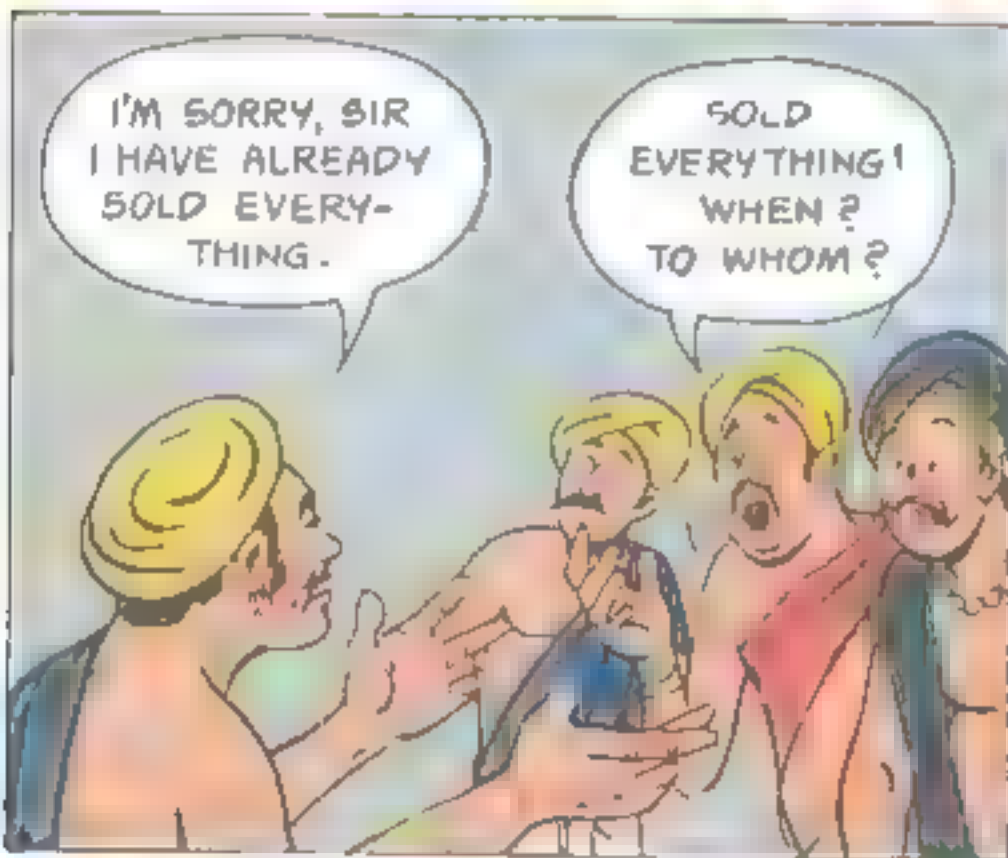




AT DAYBREAK, A HUNDRED MERCHANTS CAME TO THE HARBOUR.



MY FRIEND, WE HAVE  
COME TO DO BUSINESS  
WITH YOU!

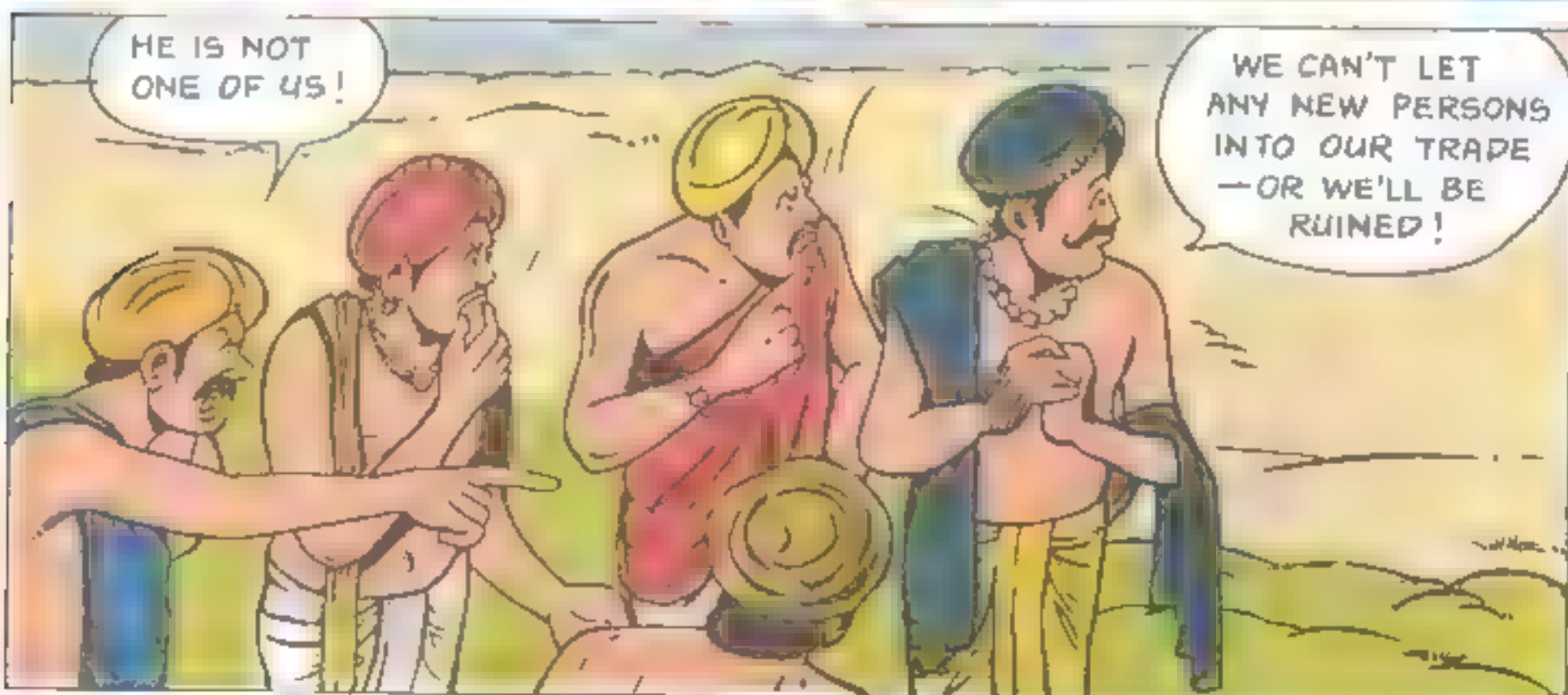


I'M SORRY, SIR  
I HAVE ALREADY  
SOLD EVERY-  
THING.

SOLD  
EVERYTHING!  
WHEN?  
TO WHOM?



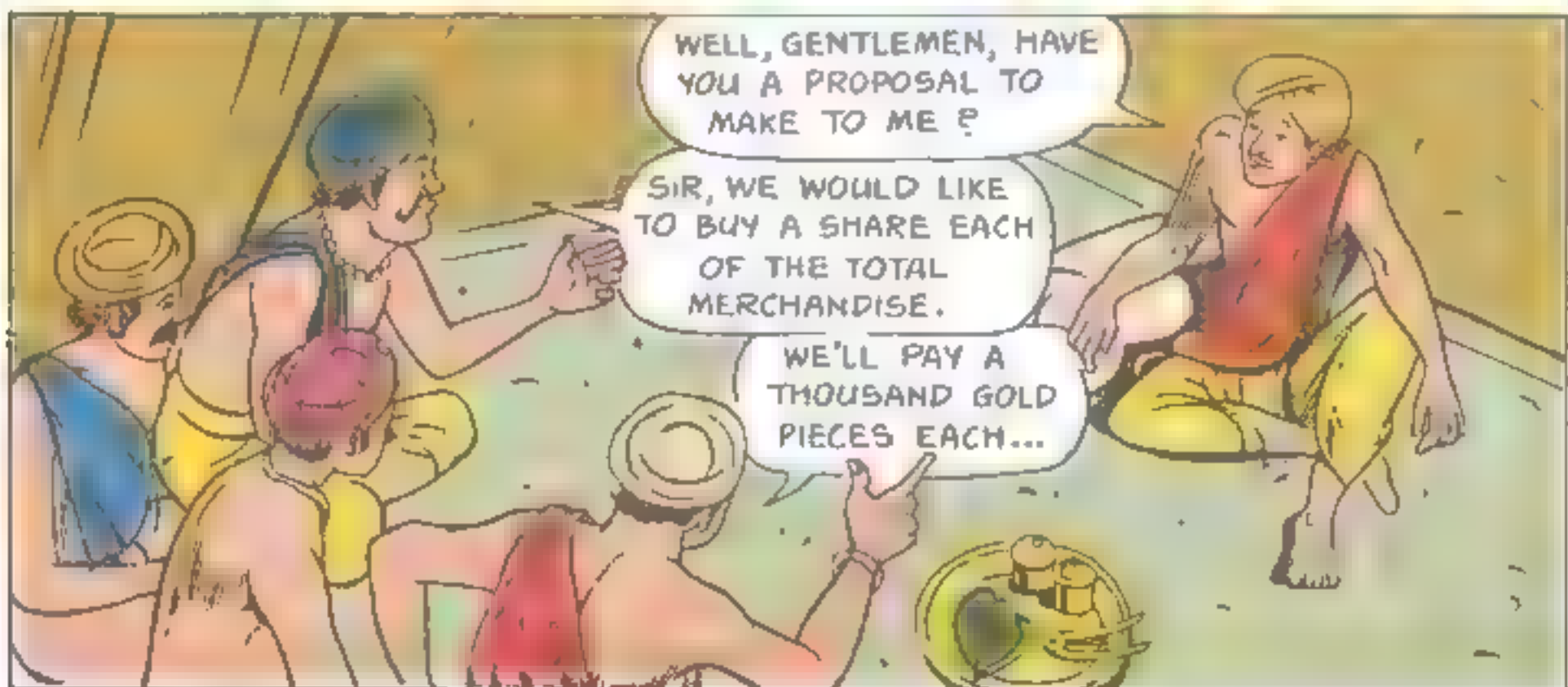
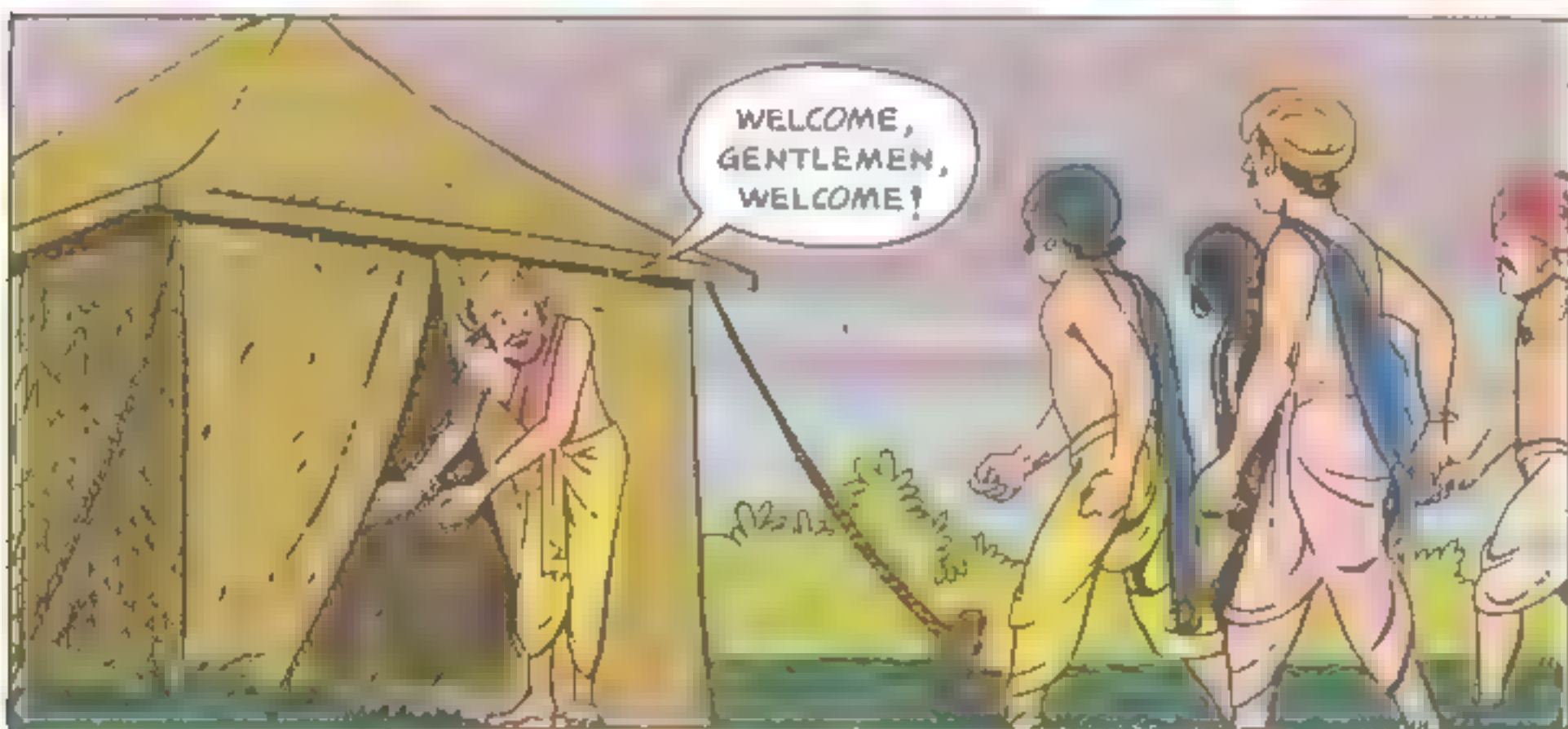
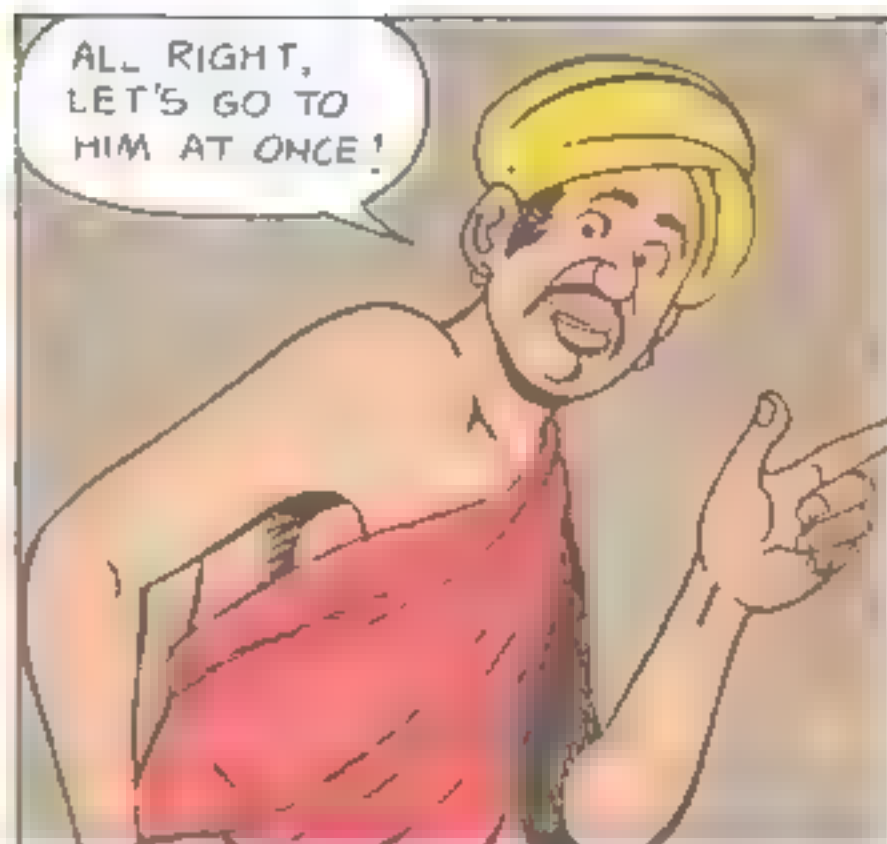
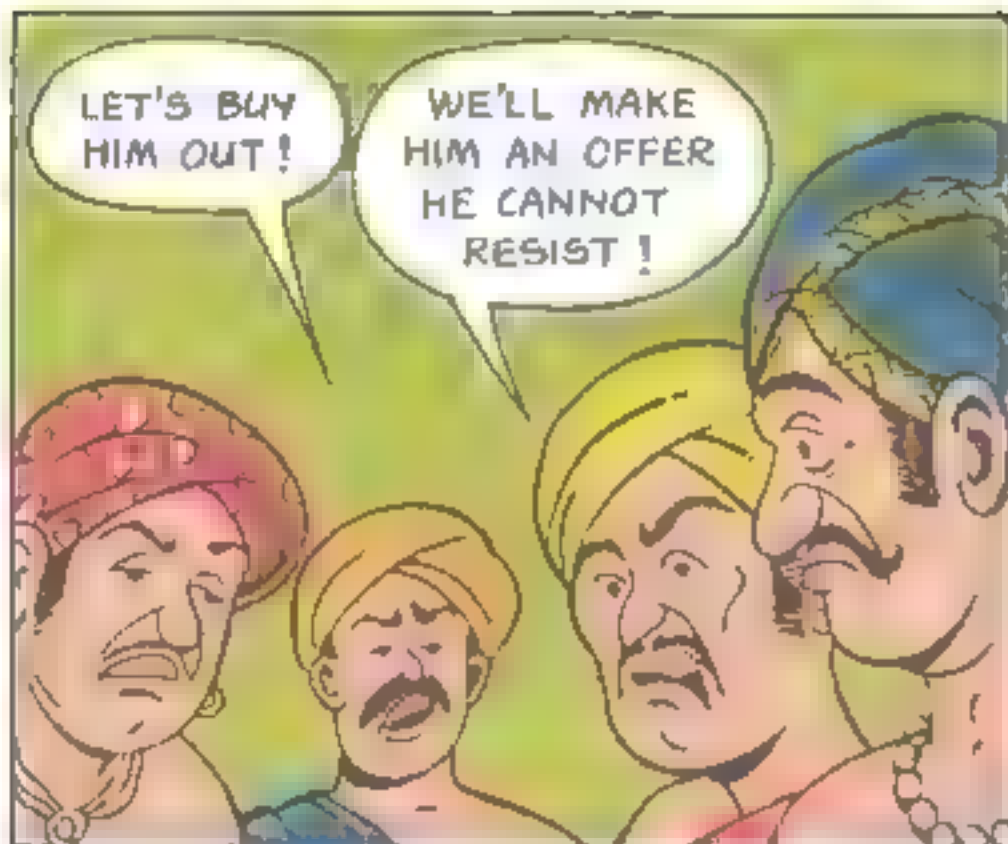
TO THAT YOUNG  
MERCHANT OVER  
THERE.



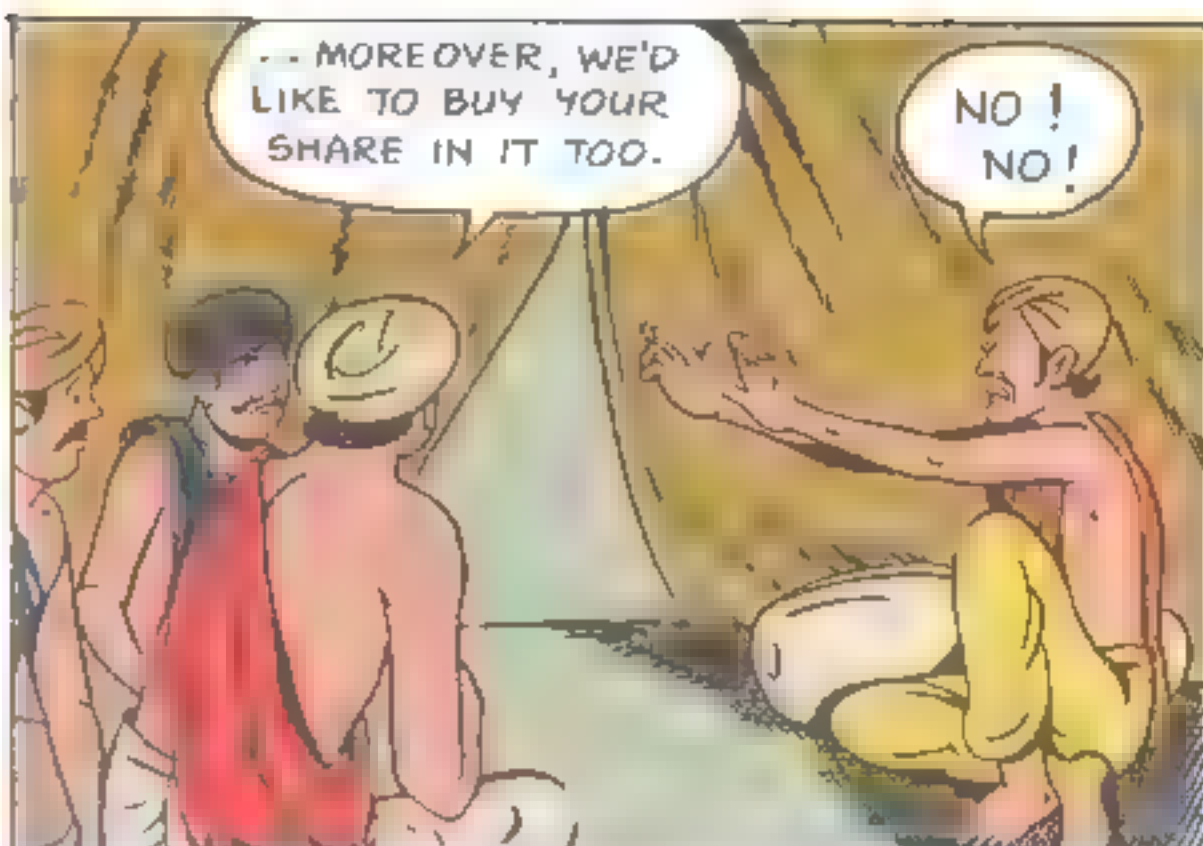
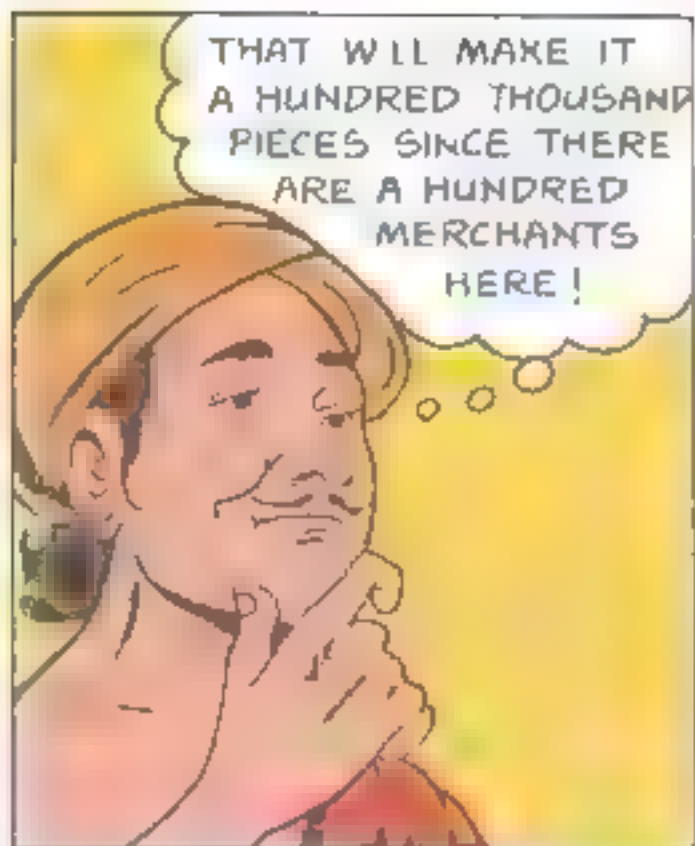
HE IS NOT  
ONE OF US!

WE CAN'T LET  
ANY NEW PERSONS  
INTO OUR TRADE  
—OR WE'LL BE  
RUINED!











TO SHOW HIS GRATITUDE, HE WENT TO CALL ON THE TREASURER, TAKING HALF HIS PROFITS WITH HIM.

SIR, PERMIT ME TO PRESENT YOU WITH THESE COINS AS MY HUMBLE GURU-DAKSHINA

GURU-DAKSHINA!

BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE! I HAVEN'T TAUGHT YOU ANYTHING!

YES, YOU HAVE! I CAME BY ALL MY WEALTH IN FOUR SHORT MONTHS, SIMPLY BY FOLLOWING YOUR TEACHING.

THEN HE TOLD THE TREASURER THE WHOLE STORY, STARTING WITH THE DEAD MOUSE —

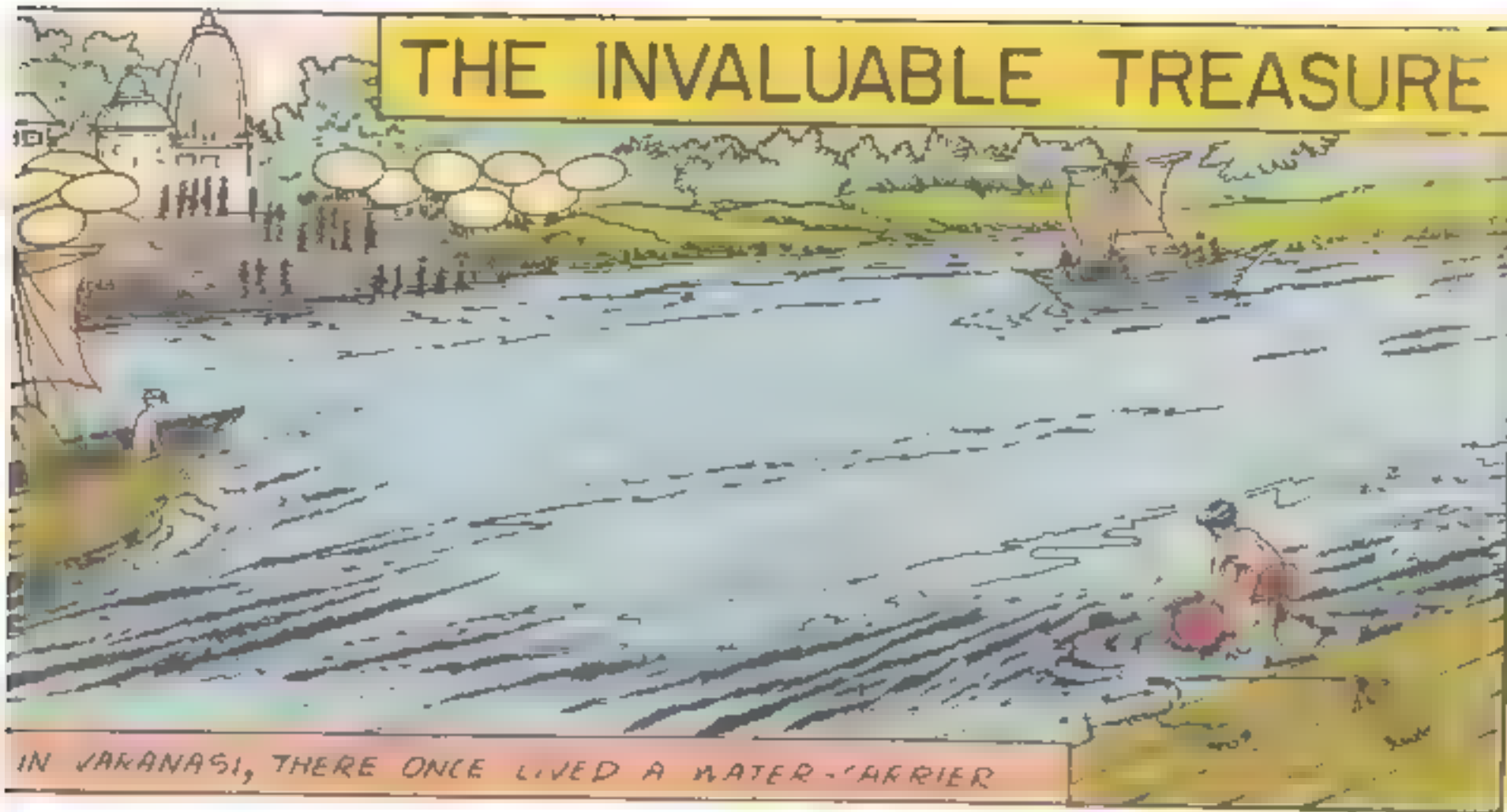
THIS YOUNG MAN IS EXTRAORDINARILY CLEVER — JUST THE PERSON I'D CHOOSE FOR MY LOVELY DAUGHTER

SO HE MARRIED THE YOUNG MAN TO HIS DAUGHTER AND GAVE HIM ALL HIS FAMILY ESTATES.

THE GODDESS OF SUCCESS SMILES ON THOSE WHO SHOW INITIATIVE. MAY YOU ALWAYS BE SO FORTUNATE, MY SON!

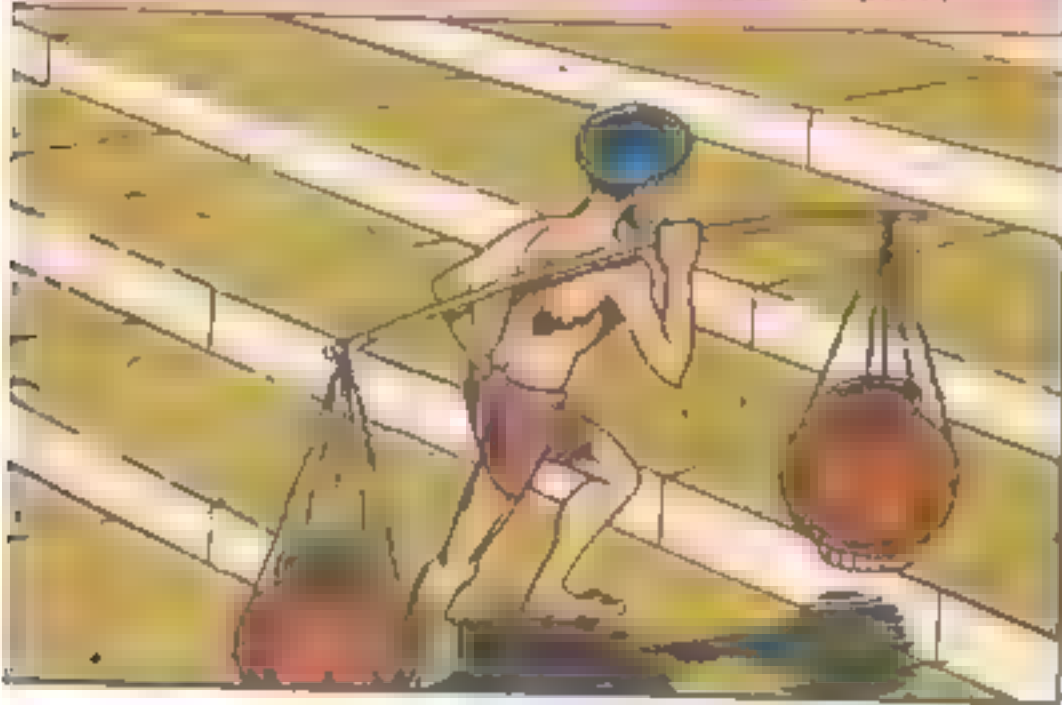


# THE INVALUABLE TREASURE

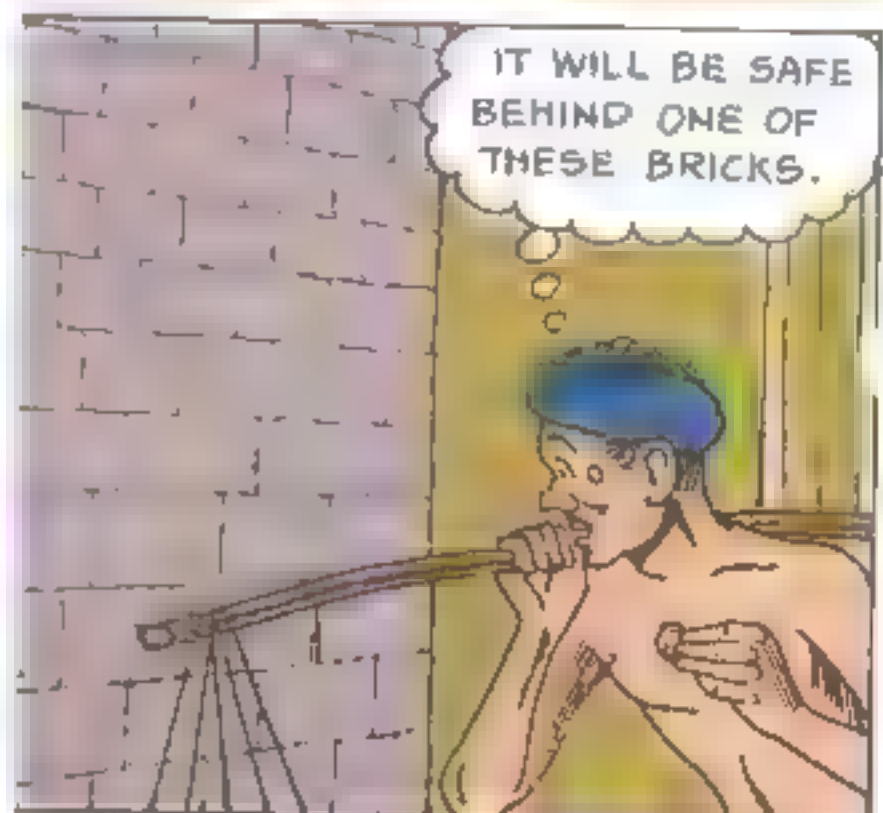


IN VAKANASI, THERE ONCE LIVED A WATER-CARRIER

THOUGH HE WORKED HARD, HE BARELY  
EARNED ENOUGH FOR TWO MEALS A DAY.



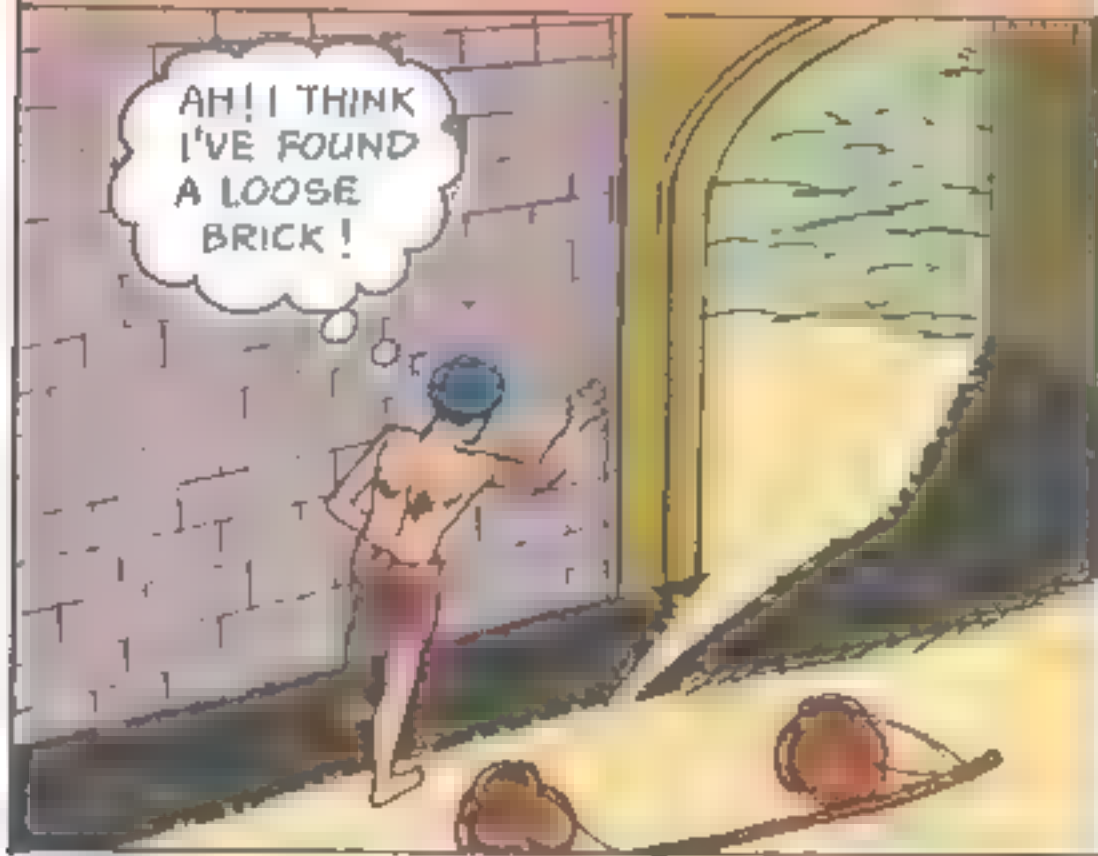
HOWEVER, ONE DAY HE MADE A  
LITTLE EXTRA MONEY.





HE BEGAN GENTLY TO TAP AT THE BRICKS.

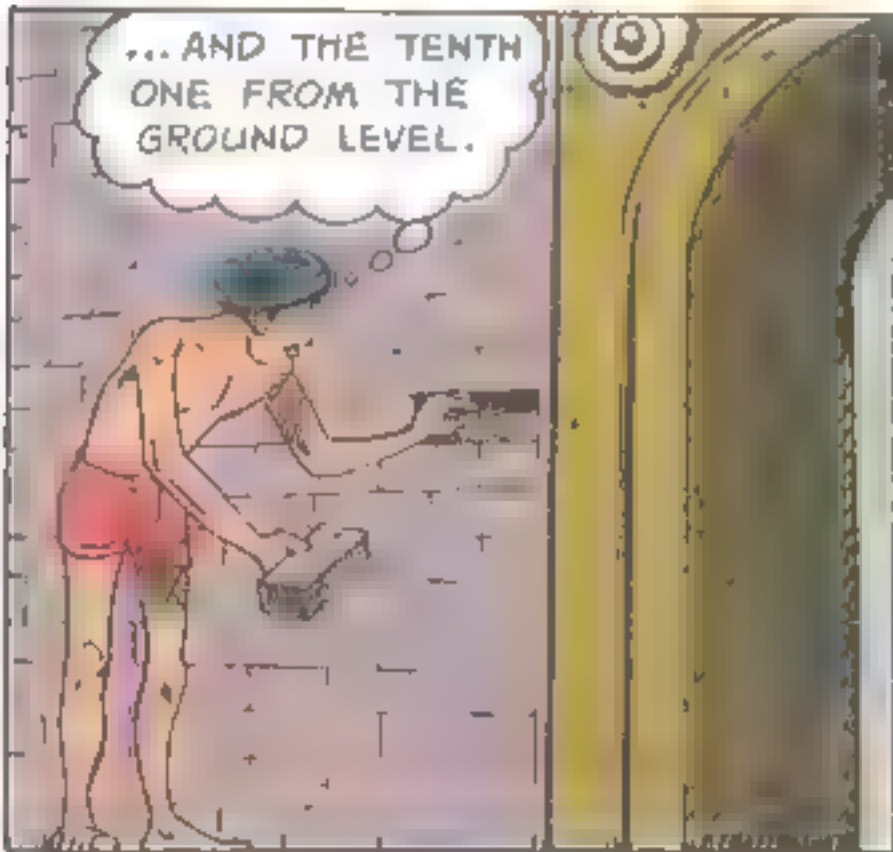
AH! I THINK  
I'VE FOUND  
A LOOSE  
BRICK!



IT'S THE FIRST  
BRICK TO THE  
LEFT OF THE  
NORTHERN GATE..



...AND THE TENTH  
ONE FROM THE  
GROUND LEVEL.

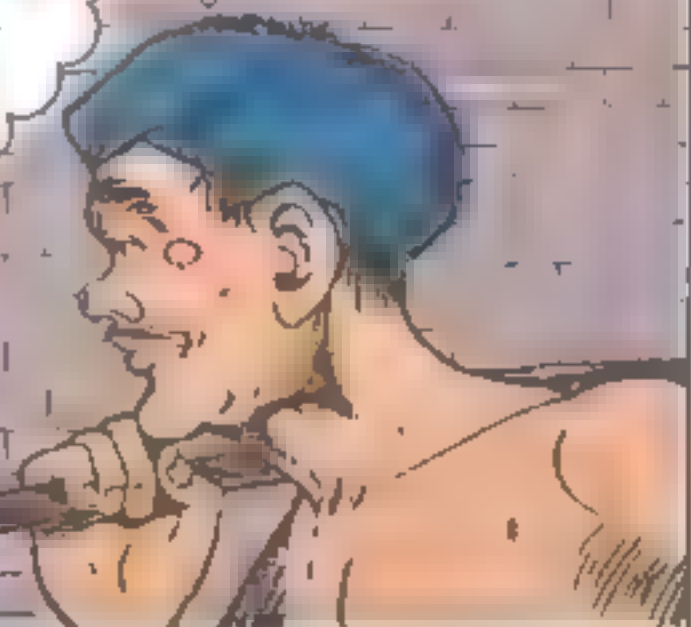


THE PLACE  
WILL BE  
EASY TO  
REMEMBER.



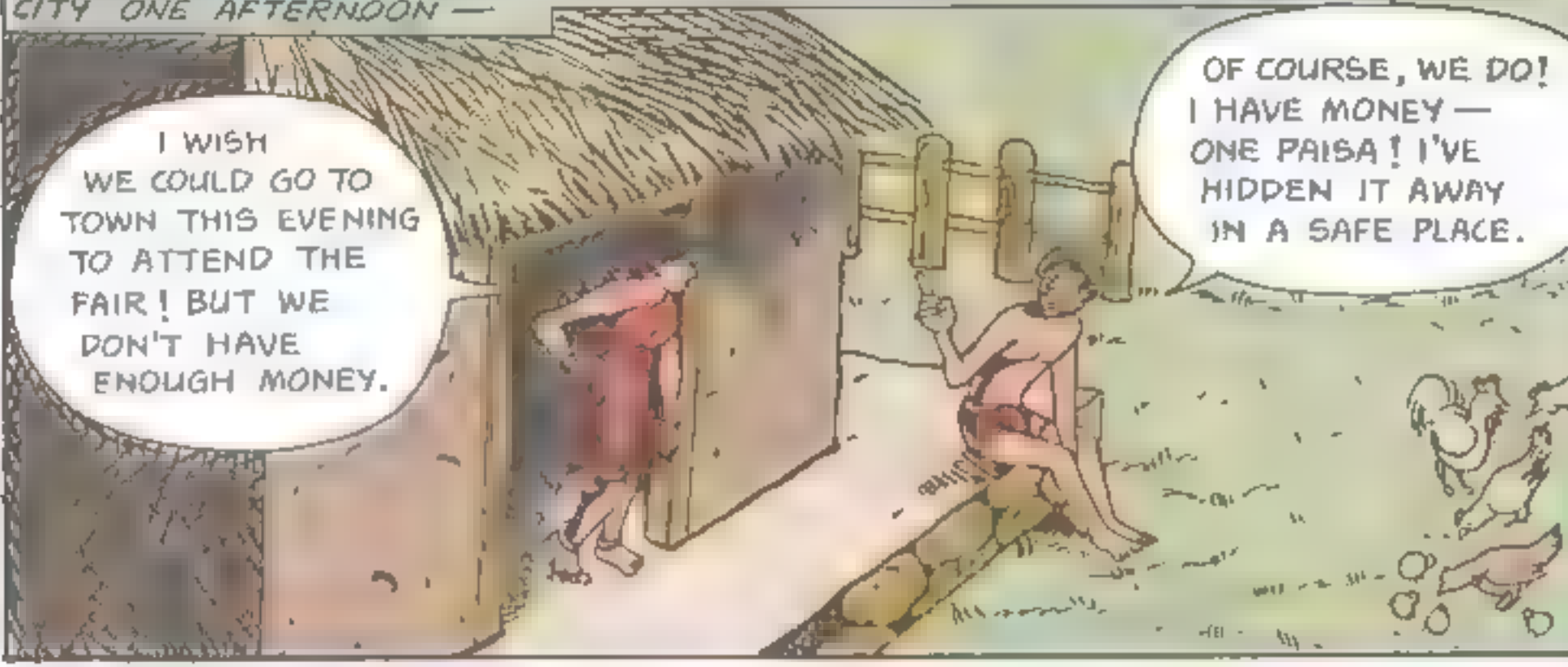
THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME HE HAD EARNED A LITTLE MORE THAN HE  
ABSOLUTELY NEEDED. HE HAD NEVER HAD SUCH LUCK BEFORE.

AH! MY TREASURE  
IS SAFE THERE.  
I AM A RICH  
MAN!



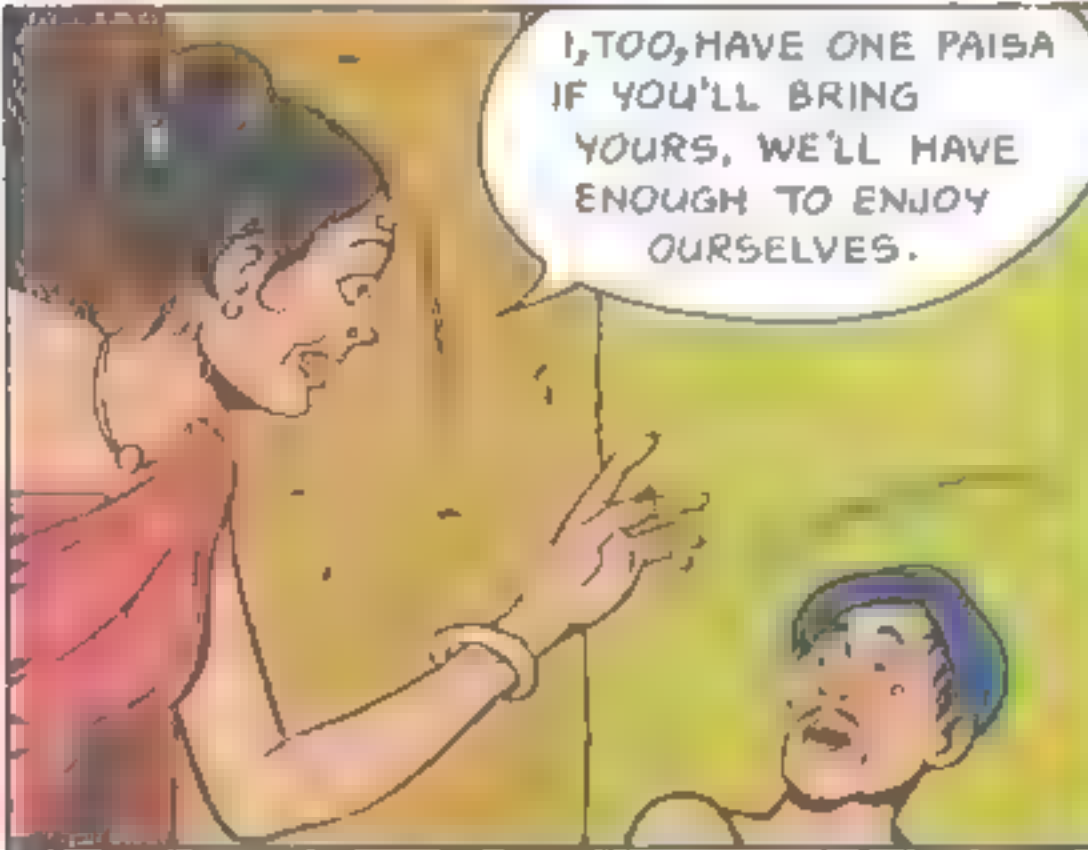


THE YEARS PASSED BY. HE MARRIED A GIRL WHO ALSO WORKED AS A WATER CARRIER. THEY BUILT A HUT NEAR THE SOUTHERN GATE OF THE CITY ONE AFTERNOON —




I WISH  
WE COULD GO TO  
TOWN THIS EVENING  
TO ATTEND THE  
FAIR! BUT WE  
DON'T HAVE  
ENOUGH MONEY.

OF COURSE, WE DO!  
I HAVE MONEY —  
ONE PAISA! I'VE  
HIDDEN IT AWAY  
IN A SAFE PLACE.



I, TOO, HAVE ONE PAISA  
IF YOU'LL BRING  
YOURS, WE'LL HAVE  
ENOUGH TO ENJOY  
OURSELVES.



I WILL GO NOW  
AND BRING YOU  
MY TREASURE.

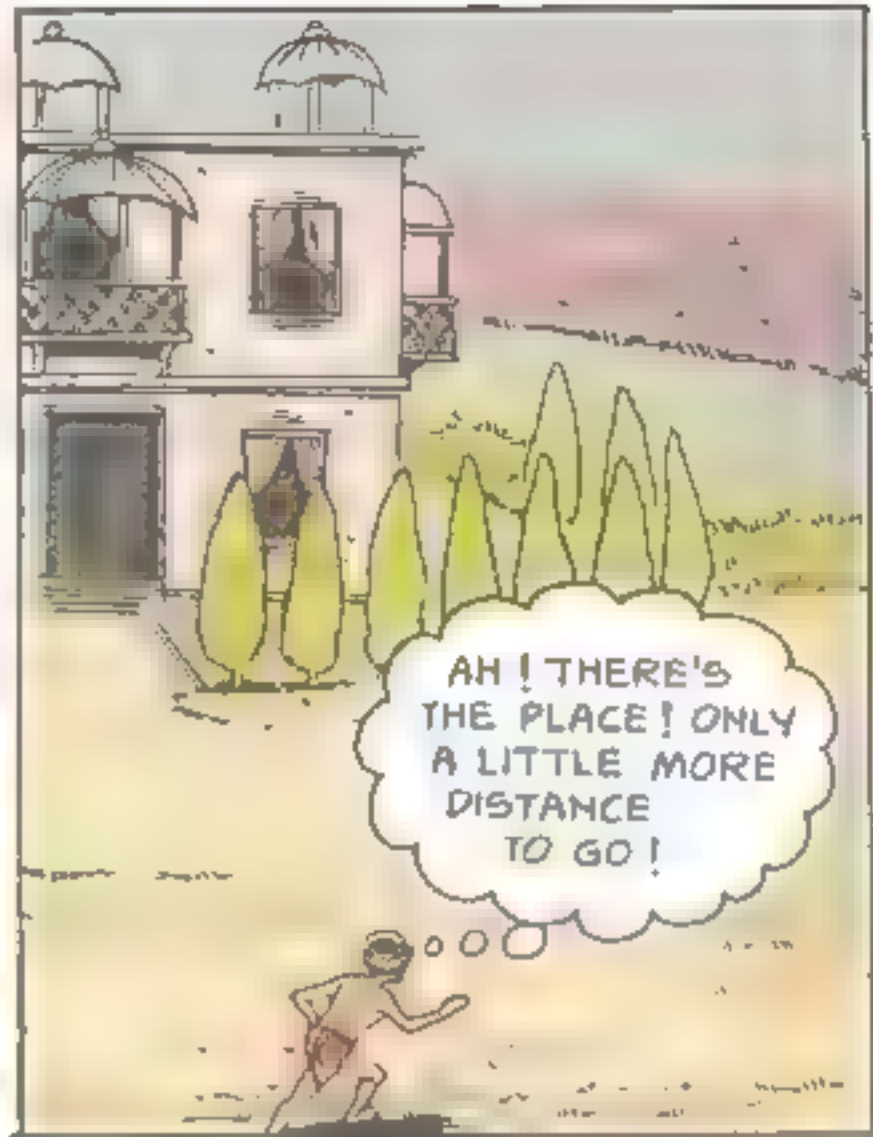
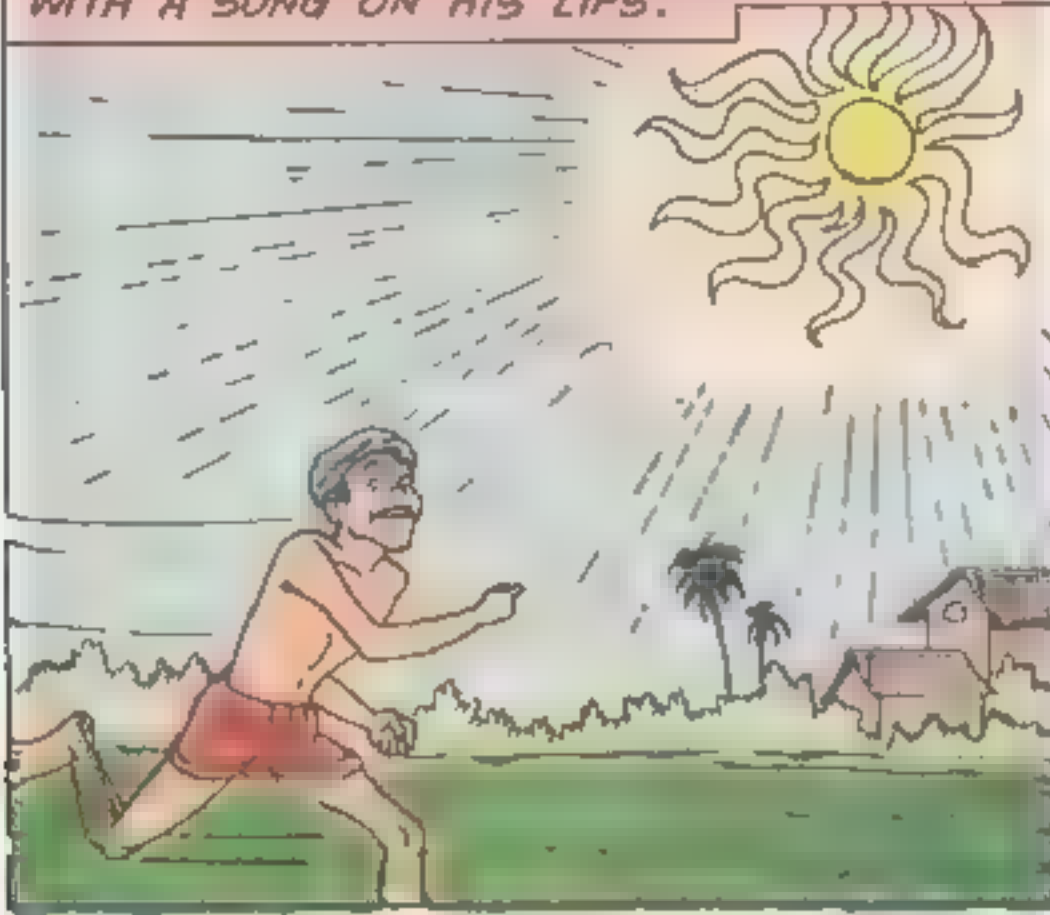


COME BACK  
SOON!

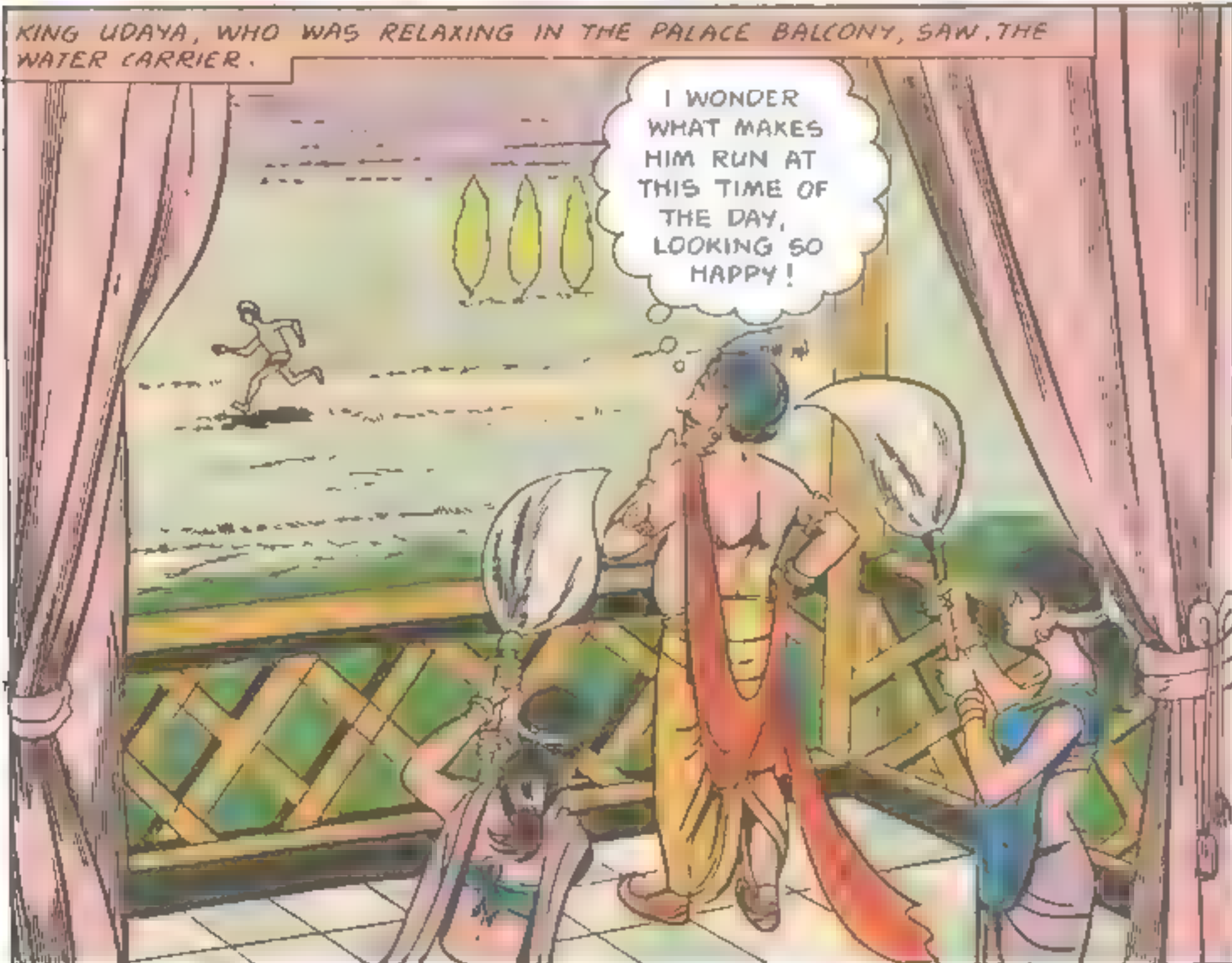
YES, YES, I'LL  
BE BACK AT  
ONCE!



IT WAS SUMMER. THE MIDDAY SUN WAS BLAZING IN THE SKY. NO ONE WAS TO BE SEEN ON THE STREETS EXCEPT THE WATER-CARRIER WHO WAS RUNNING WITH A SONG ON HIS LIPS.



KING UDAYA, WHO WAS RELAXING IN THE PALACE BALCONY, SAW THE WATER CARRIER.



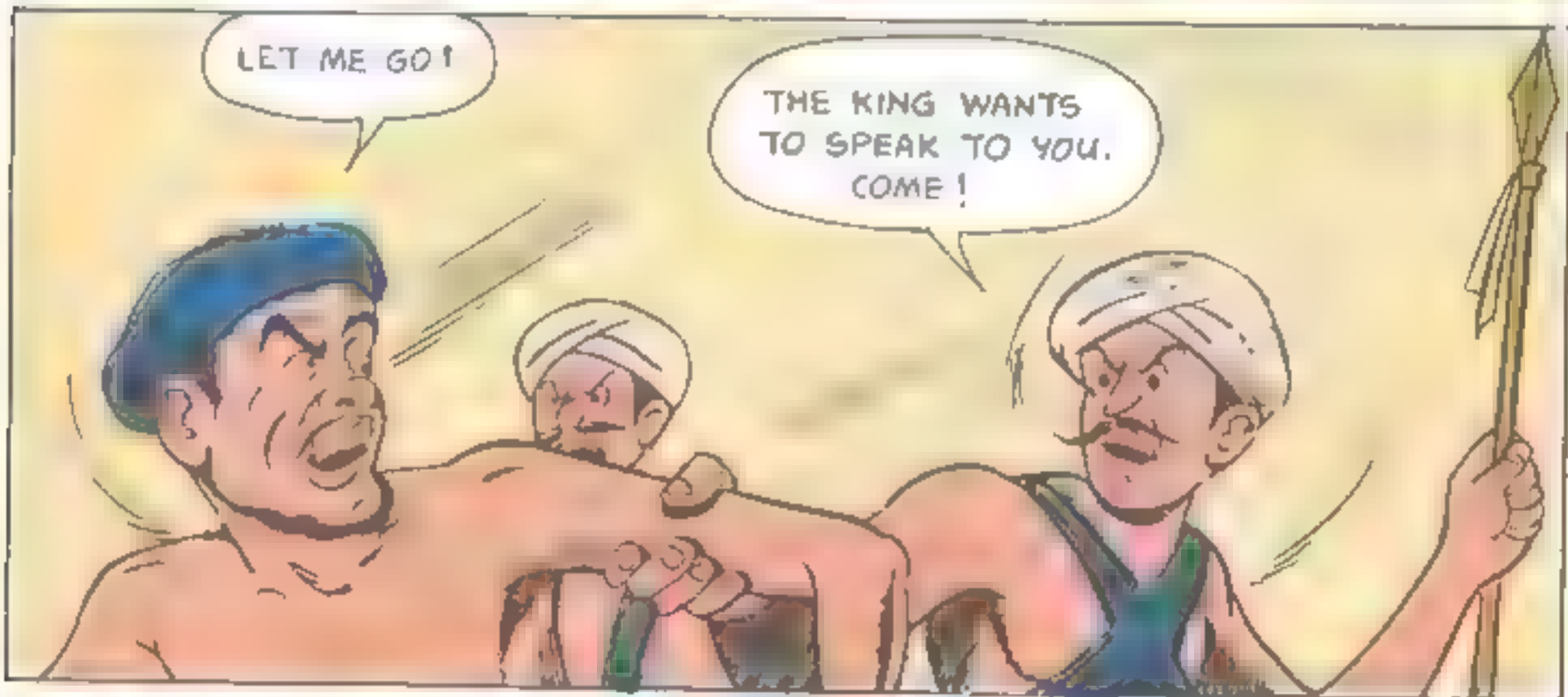


HE SENT WORD TO HAVE THE MAN BROUGHT TO HIM —



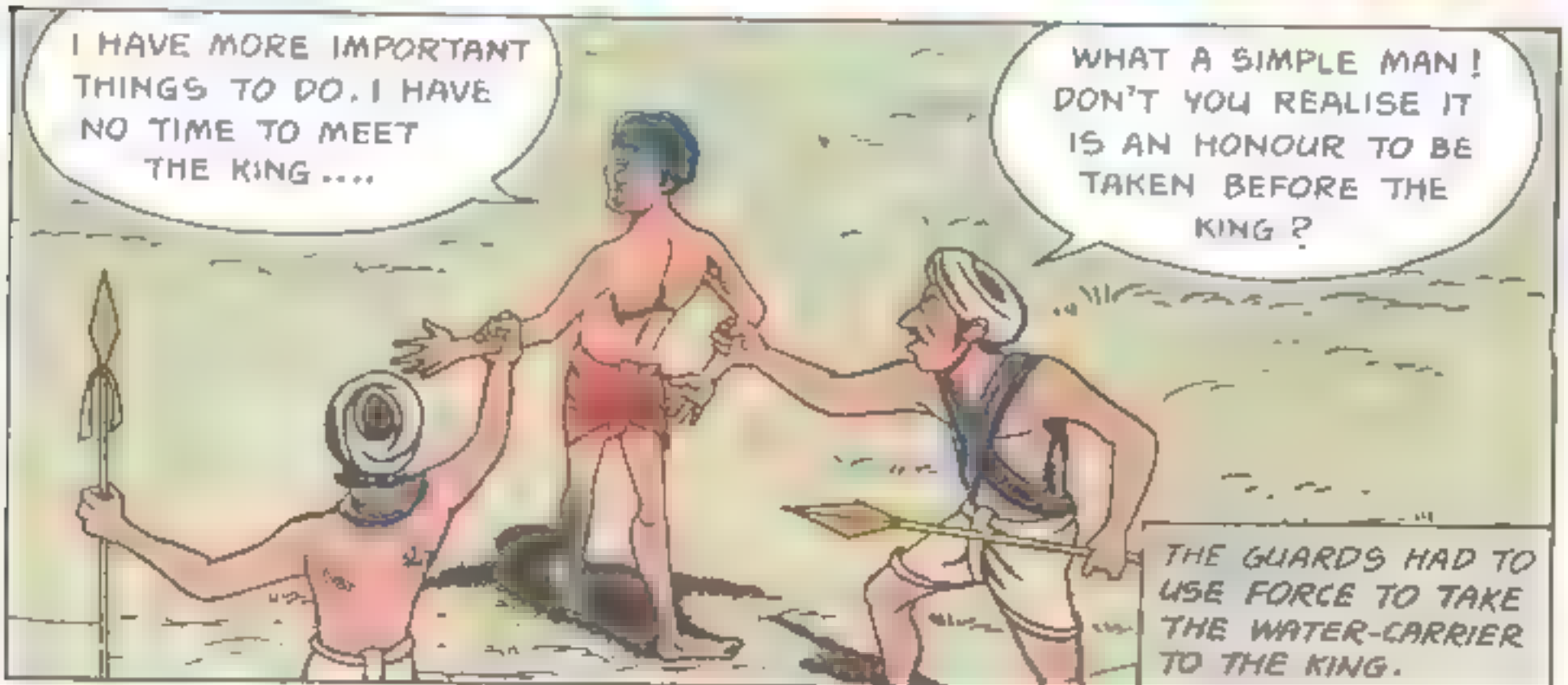
LET ME GO!

THE KING WANTS  
TO SPEAK TO YOU.  
COME!



I HAVE MORE IMPORTANT  
THINGS TO DO. I HAVE  
NO TIME TO MEET  
THE KING ....

WHAT A SIMPLE MAN!  
DON'T YOU REALISE IT  
IS AN HONOUR TO BE  
TAKEN BEFORE THE  
KING ?

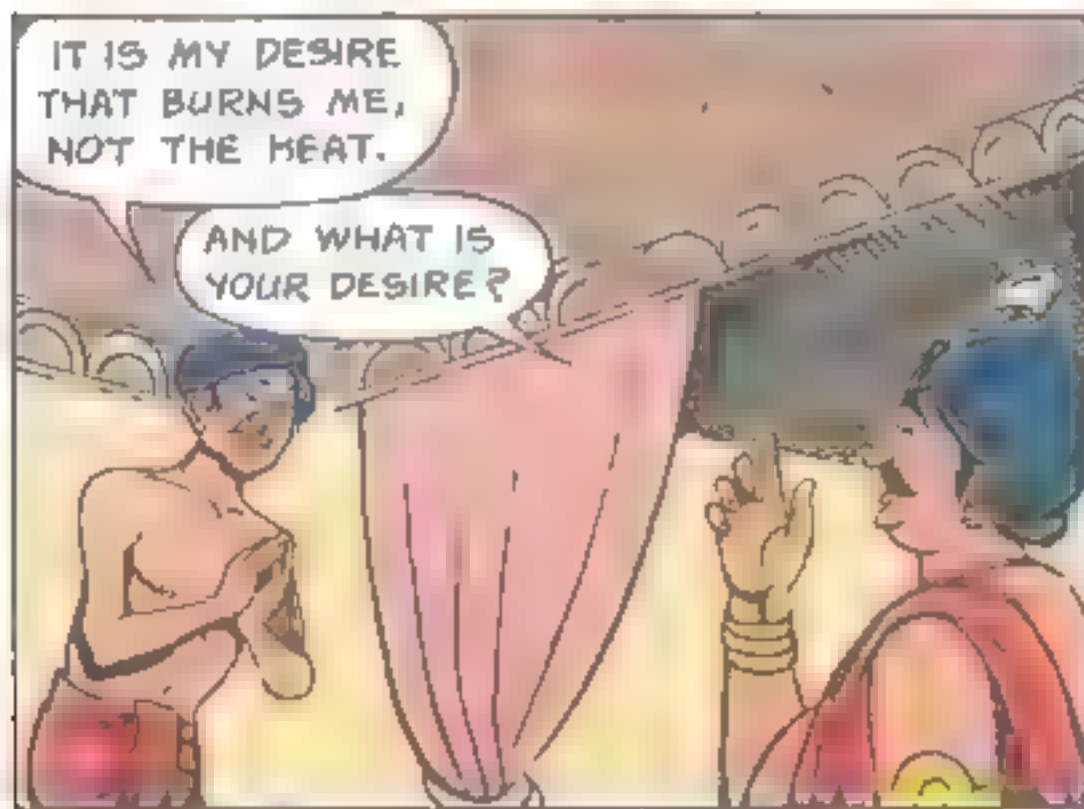


THE GUARDS HAD TO  
USE FORCE TO TAKE  
THE WATER-CARRIER  
TO THE KING.



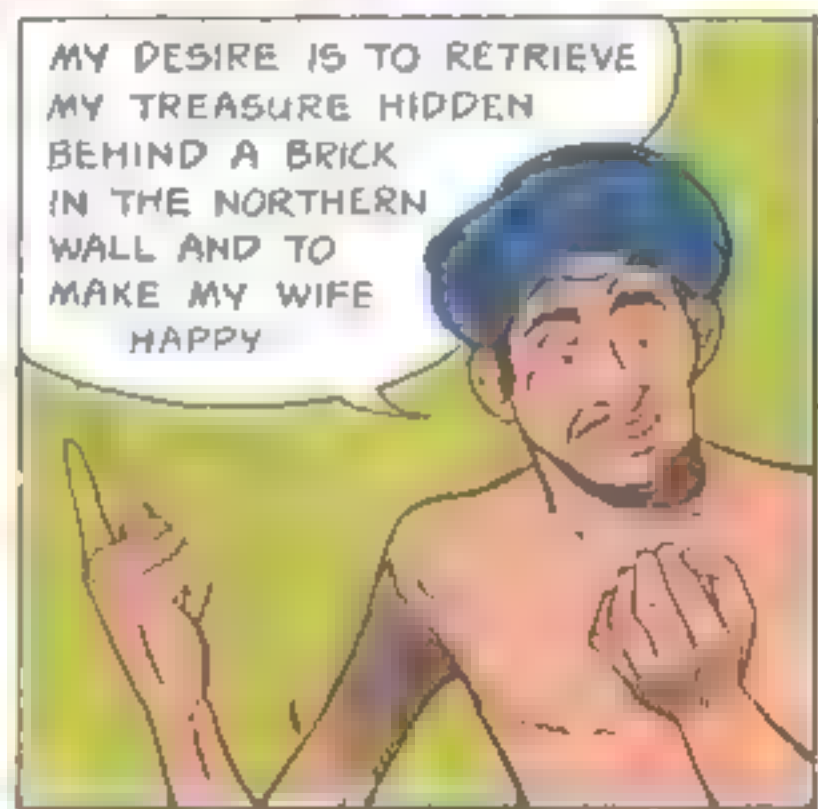


THE EARTH  
IS LIKE A FURNACE.  
YET YOU RUN AND  
SING DON'T YOUR  
FEET BURN ?

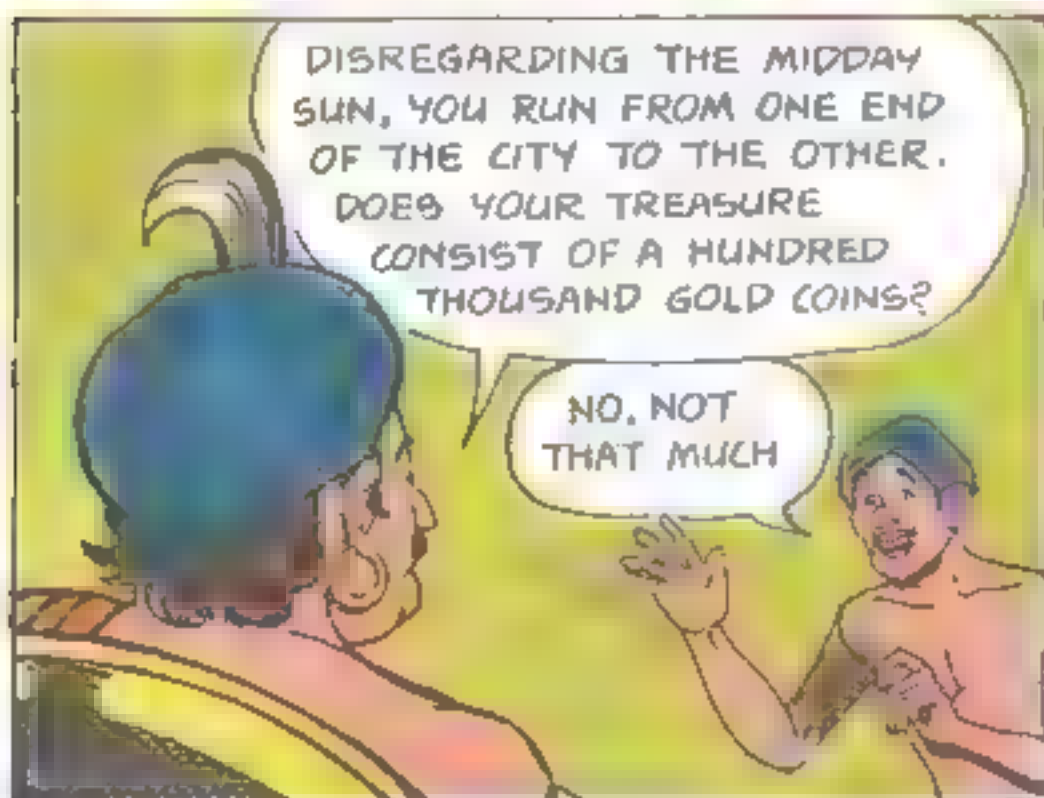


IT IS MY DESIRE  
THAT BURNS ME,  
NOT THE HEAT.

AND WHAT IS  
YOUR DESIRE ?

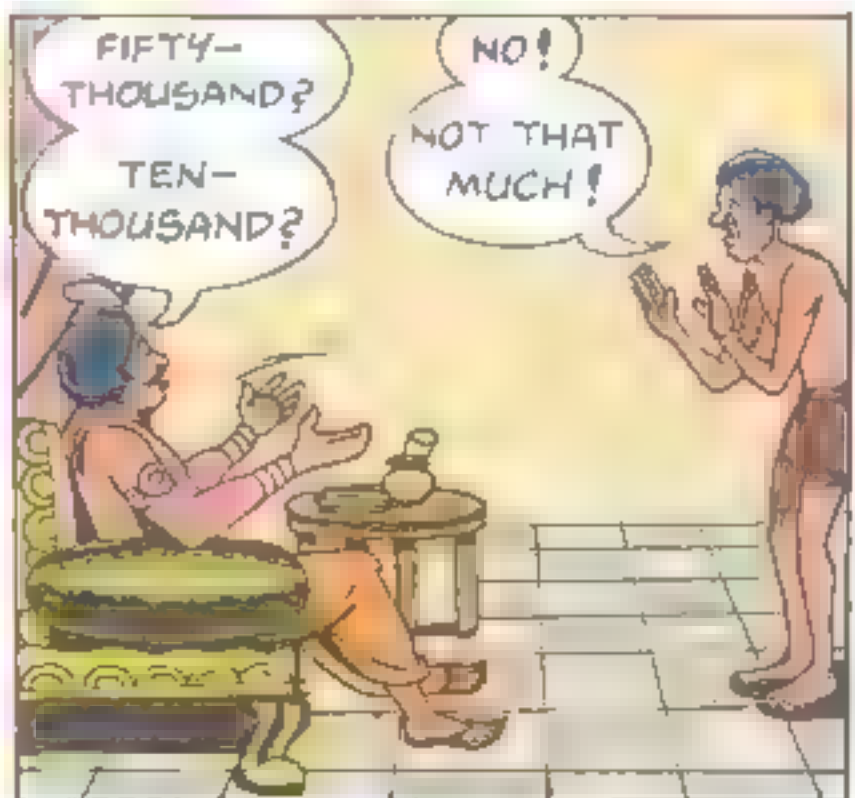


MY DESIRE IS TO RETRIEVE  
MY TREASURE HIDDEN  
BEHIND A BRICK  
IN THE NORTHERN  
WALL AND TO  
MAKE MY WIFE  
HAPPY



DISREGARDING THE MIDDAY  
SUN, YOU RUN FROM ONE END  
OF THE CITY TO THE OTHER.  
DOES YOUR TREASURE  
CONSIST OF A HUNDRED  
THOUSAND GOLD COINS?

NO, NOT  
THAT MUCH



FIFTY-  
THOUSAND?

TEN-  
THOUSAND?

NO!  
NOT THAT  
MUCH!



THE KING ASKED IF IT WERE A THOUSAND, A HUNDRED, FIFTY, TEN GOLD COINS. BUT THE WATER-CARRIER SHOOK HIS HEAD —

NO, NO. NOT THAT MUCH!

THEN HOW MUCH IS IT?

IT IS ONE PAISA, MY KING.

ONE PAISA!

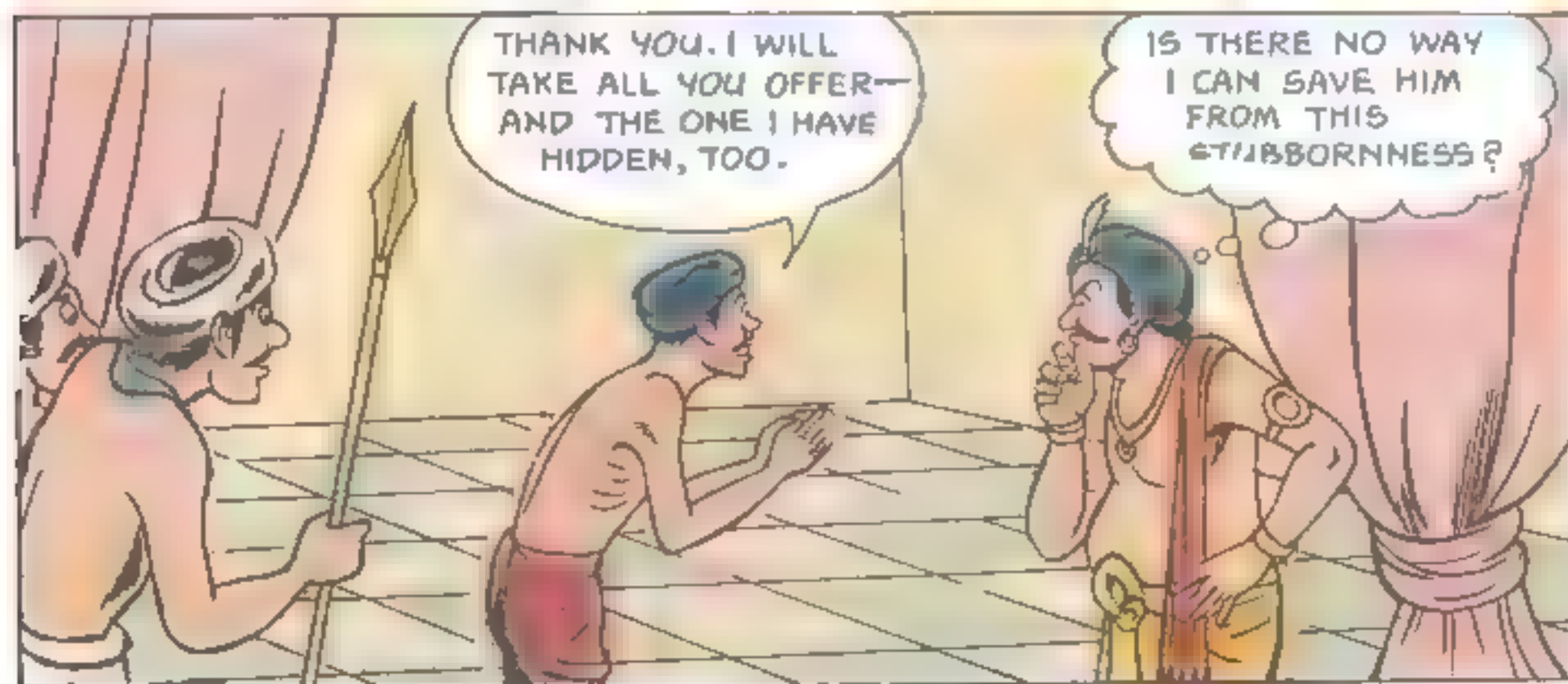
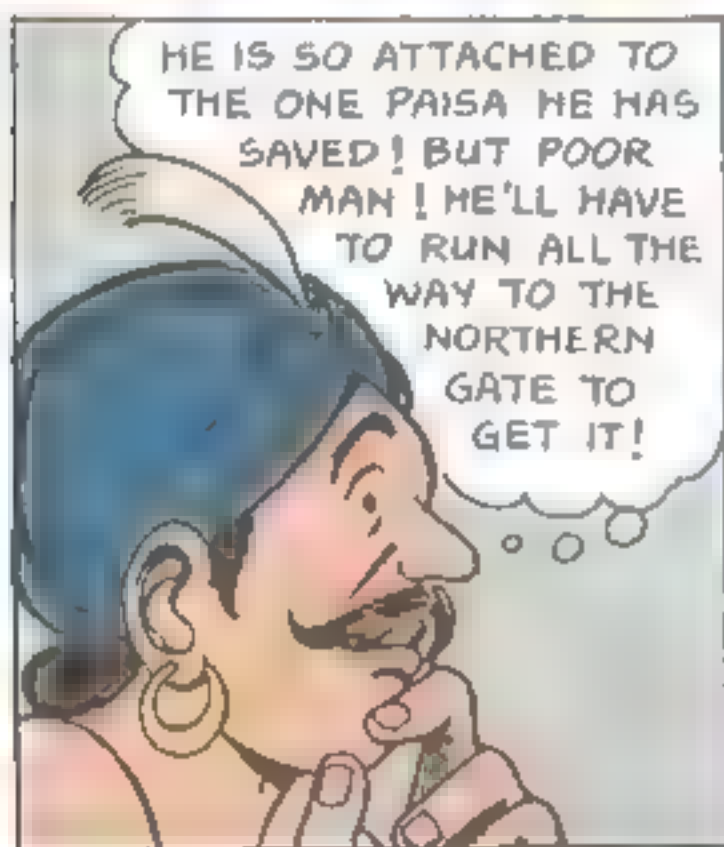
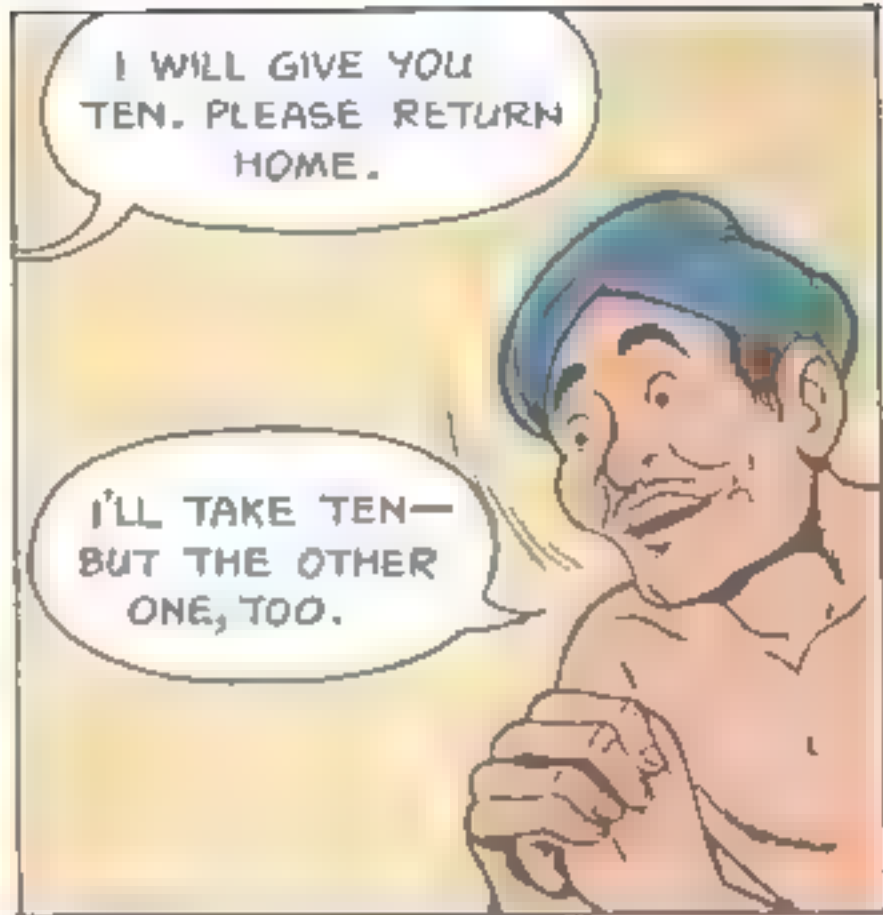
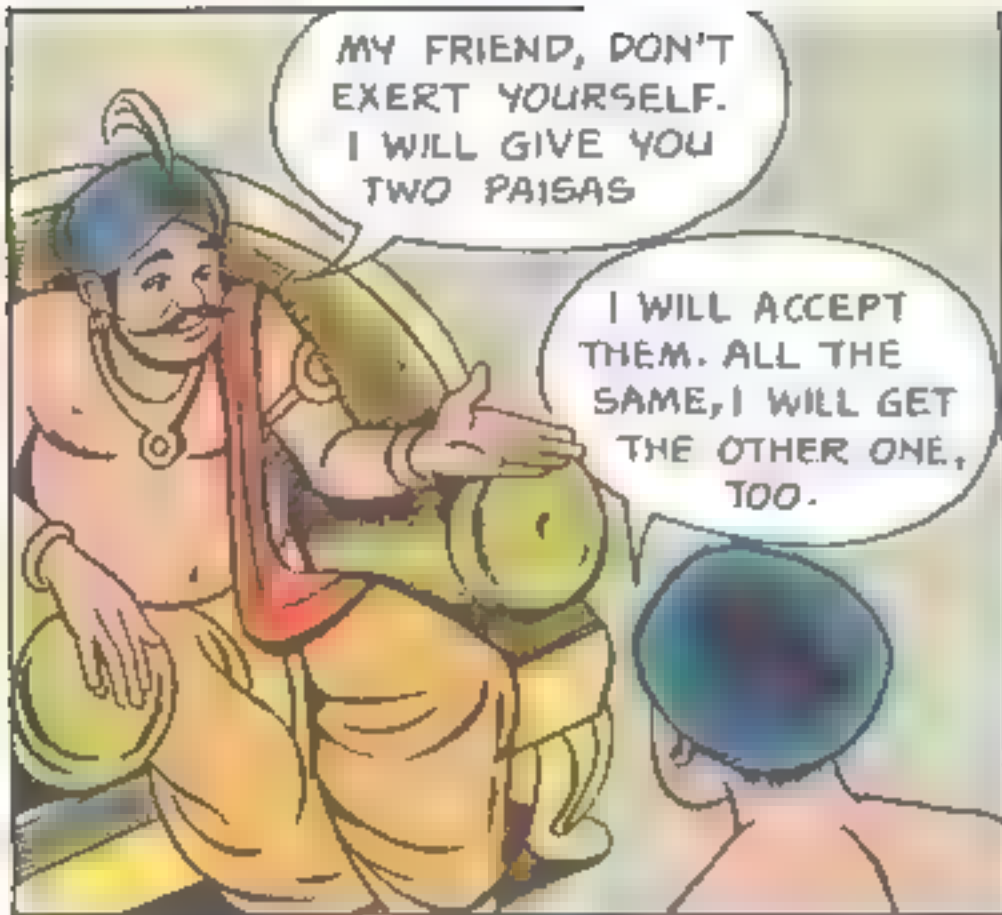
YES, WITH THAT MONEY I CAN BUY A LOT OF THINGS FOR MY WIFE AND MAKE HER HAPPY.

MY FRIEND, YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN TO THE NORTHERN GATE TO GET ONE PAISA I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU

HERE, TAKE THIS AND GO HOME.

I WILL TAKE WHAT YOU GIVE ME. BUT I WILL GO AND GET THE OTHER COIN, TOO.







DESPERATELY, THE KING RAISED HIS OFFER AGAIN AND AGAIN. BUT THE WATER-CARRIER INSISTED THAT HE WOULD GO AND FETCH HIS HIDDEN TREASURE. FINALLY —

I WILL GIVE YOU HALF MY KINGDOM IF ONLY YOU WILL AGREE TO DROP THE IDEA OF RUNNING NOW FOR ONE PAISA!

I AGREE!

AT LAST! I AM HAPPY TO HAVE YOUR AGREEMENT!

THE KING HELD A DARBAR TO CROWN THE WATER CARRIER KING OF ONE HALF OF THE KINGDOM.

NOW, FRIEND, TELL ME WHICH HALF OF THE KINGDOM YOU CHOOSE TO HAVE.

THE WATER-CARRIER THOUGHT FOR A SECOND —

I WANT THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE KINGDOM.

YOU'VE WON AGAIN!

THUS, THE WATER-CARRIER NOT ONLY GOT HALF THE KINGDOM BUT ALSO HIS TREASURE WHICH WAS HIDDEN IN THE NORTHERN WALL.



# Jeevan and Hanu wonder at **HORSE SENSE**



would tap seven times. Non-mathematical questions (such as 'Is London the capital of Britain?') would be answered by shaking or nodding the head. Hans could even answer questions written out on blackboards.

Clever Hans was a horse who lived in Germany, early in the twentieth century. He could read, solve mathematical problems, and answer questions on world political affairs — or so it seemed.

Hans would answer all mathematical questions by tapping his leg. If you asked him '3 plus 4', he

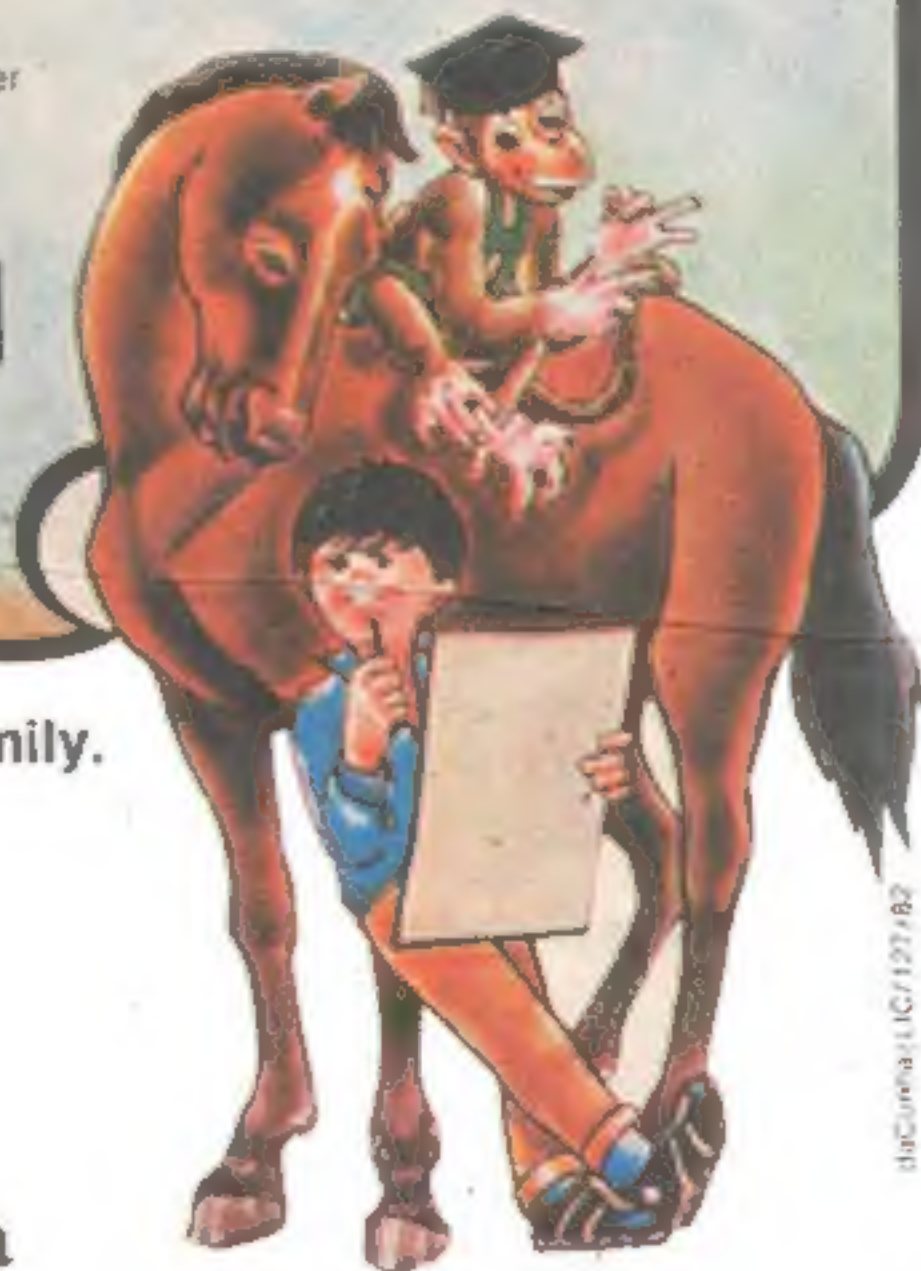


Finally Hans' secret was discovered. He was highly sensitive to the reactions of people around him, especially his master Osten. When a

mathematical question was asked, people would look at Hans' foot. So Hans would start tapping. When he reached the right number of taps, people would react in some way, without being aware of it. They would nod slightly, or relax, or smile. Hans would then stop tapping.

Hans was able to pick up similar cues for non-mathematical questions. No one knows how he learnt this trick.

The most amazing thing is that even after people became aware of the horse's method, they could still not stop sending out these little clues, no matter how hard they tried!



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Corporation of India**





*I have a little bear, his name is Teddy  
I take him everywhere, cause he's so cuddly.  
When Teddy is good, I give him a treat  
And Teddy gives me Gems, isn't that sweet?*

**Got a moment? Get a Gem!**



*Cadbury's*  
Chocolates

*Anything's possible with Cadbury's Gems*



**ADVENTURE!  
THRILLS!  
EXCITEMENT!**

# **DOG DETECTIVE RANJHA**

Owning a dog is a lot of fun. But when that dog is Ranjha, fur flies and criminals go in fear. Tinkle serialises the true-life adventures of the one and only Dog Detective Ranjha, a never before saga of a dog's heroism and intelligence.



**TINKLE**

THE CHILDREN'S MONTHLY FROM  
THE HOUSE OF AMAR CHITRA KATHA





Green  
Silver  
Orange  
Silver  
Red  
Silver  
Yellow

# No foolin'!

## Real Poppins

now have a  
silver striped wrappin'!

Guess what, kids! The tricksters  
can't fool you now. All you do  
is watch for the silver stripes  
on the Parle POPPINS  
colourful foil pack.  
Then, keep poppin' them in  
for fruity flavoured  
fun, okay?

WATCH FOR  
THE SILVER STRIPES  
BEFORE YOU  
POP'EM IN.

**PARLE**  
**POPPINS**

Now,  
the imitators can't  
fool you.

